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OF

British Parliamentary Papers

ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE COLONIES

1871-72

Colonies General

14

IRISH UNIVERSITY PRESS

SHANNON · IRELAND

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REPORTS

ON THE

PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS

For the Year 1869.

PART I.—WEST INDIES.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
1871.

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1871.

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PART I.

JAMAICA.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir J. P. GRANT, K.C.B., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 250.)

MY LORD, King's House, December 19, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1869, together with my Report on it.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. P. GRANT.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

REPORT ON THE JAMAICA BLUE BOOK FOR 1869.

The year under Report is the third year after the establishment of the New Constitution of this Colony in 1866.

Legislation.

2. Forty-nine laws were passed during this year: of these the following are of most general interest and importance:—

3. Law 4 of 1869 constitutes the office of Collector-General, under whom all the officers in the departments of Customs, Excise, and Internal Revenue are placed. It abolishes the old offices of Collector and Controller of Customs in Jamaica; and brings the Customs Officers of all the Ports within the new Revenue Service, the constitution of which was described in last year's Report.

4. Law 7 of 1869 provides for the erection of new markets, and the purchase of land for the extension of the sites of the existing markets, in the city of Kingston, by means of a loan not exceeding 20,000*l*. The interest on the loan debentures and their eventual redemption are secured on the rents and dues of the markets, and on the lands purchased for them; the general revenue of the Island not being liable on this account. There were two markets in Kingston; one in King Street, on the harbour, which is the principal market, and the other called the Solar Market. Both of these come within the purport of this law. The erection of the new market in King-street is in rapid progress. The plan of it will be described in another part of this Report.

5. Law 9 of 1869 consolidates and amends, by the introduction of provisions for systematic examinations on the principle of the late English statutes on this subject, the laws for the admission of Attorneys.

6. By this law the judges of the Supreme Court are required to make regulations—1st, for the preliminary examination, in such branches of general knowledge as they deem proper, of all persons desirous of becoming articled clerks; 2nd, for an intermediate examination of articled clerks in such branches of general knowledge and in law, after the lapse of a certain period of their term of service; and 3rd, for a final examination in such branches of law as the judges may deem necessary after the candidate has served the full term of his articles. And finally, the judges are required to satisfy themselves of the general fitness and capacity of the candidate, before admitting him upon the roll.

7. The right to admission of attorneys and writers to the signet of Great Britain and Ireland is preserved as formerly.

8. Law 11 of 1869 empowers the Governor to constitute Government Reformatories for boys and girls.

9. These Reformatories are now in full operation at Stony Hill, a place about nine miles from Kingston; where a fine set of barracks, the property of the Colony, for a long time useless, built originally to hold a regiment of infantry, has been appropriated for this purpose. This public institution takes the place of two private, but legally

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authorized reformatories, which had been established at Kingston. Those private reformatories had been managed by gentlemen of high character, who, in the most meritorious manner, had devoted their valuable time to this work. The institutions, however, practically, from the failure of private subscriptions, had come to be wholly dependent on public money; and had outgrown the condition in which their management could be properly conducted by private gentlemen, with funds more or less precarious. The Government Institution was constituted with the entire approval of these public-spirited gentlemen, and indeed at their desire. It has now become a great public establishment, under the able management of the Rev. Mr. Melville. The subjects are of the worst of all classes; but the majority are not incorrigible. A party of reformatory lads have been for the last year amongst the most useful and easily-managed hands employed at the Government Cinchona Plantation in the Blue Mountains.

10. Law 12 of 1869 reorganizes the Public Hospital at Kingston. This hospital was originally under the management of Members of the House of Assembly, forming unpaid Boards of Commissioners, who were formerly selected by the Members, and latterly nominated by the Governor. From early times, down to the extinction of the unpaid Board, gross abuses prevailed in every department of the Institution. In 1859 the Board of Management was abolished, and an unprofessional salaried Inspector and Director was constituted. But the Medical and Surgical department was not reformed, and any improvement that on the whole there may have been cannot have been of much practical value, for a Commission appointed in 1861 disclosed a shocking state of things. Thereupon the Medical Officers, Matron, and nurses were all dismissed; the Inspector and Director were censured; and a new law was passed, constituting a Board of Visitors, and giving the Governor ample powers for the appointment of the medical staff. But, unfortunately, the system of medical staff adopted was founded on a principle of constant change, based on some notion of throwing open the Institution to the profession generally. Complaints and squabbles about the Hospital continued to disgrace the Colony until 1865, when Governor Eyre adopted the simple plan of appointing an able professional gentleman, selected by the Secretary of State, a stranger to Kingston and its factions, as permanent Head of the Medical department of the Institution. Dr. Steventon took charge of this office in 1866, since which time, so far as the *personnel* of the Hospital is concerned, it has become a credit to the Colony.

11. In 1867 the last Inspector and Director died; and as the use of an unprofessional manager was questioned, and the practical inconveniences arising from unprofessional interference with the professional chief, on whom responsibility mainly rested, were apparent, I thought it right, with the consent of Dr. Steventon, who undertook both duties, to abstain from appointing a successor. The duties of the offices were thus experimentally combined with those of the Medical Superintendent. By this arrangement, not only was a direct saving of a part of the salary of the vacant office effected, but by reason of Dr. Steventon's able management, with which there was no longer anyone to interfere, very material reductions of the cost of the establishment, with an increase of efficiency, were realized.

12. On the good results of the concentration of power in the hands of one qualified man becoming manifest, it was determined to pass the present law, which repeals the law of 1862, and vests the entire management of the Institution in the Chief Medical Officer, who is now termed "Chief Medical Officer and Director."

13. The Governor in Privy Council has power to make regulations from time to time for the good government of the Hospital, so that defects can always be readily remedied as occasion arises: and the Governor has power to appoint a Board of Visitors, with such duties as the Governor in Privy Council may from time to time direct.

14. Law 19 of 1869 transfers to the Governor from the Customs Officers the power of constituting bonded warehouses, and of declaring what sorts of goods may be deposited without previous payment of duty in such bonded warehouses. And this law authorizes the Governor to direct the warehousing of certain sorts of goods in any specified port only in a Government bonded warehouse to be provided and appropriated at such port for that purpose. The goods to which this rule applies are spirits, wines, cordials, and tobacco, as these require more careful watching in bond than other goods.

15. A public bonded warehouse for general goods, communicating with a public wharf, accessible to all, is still a want of the Port of Kingston. But this law has removed the most pressing inconveniences arising from this want, so far as the interests of the Public Revenue are concerned. The public bonded warehouse under this law, in Kingston, is at the New Custom House, to which a wharf is attached, open to all.

16. Public bonded warehouses for the classes of goods above specified have also been established at Falmouth and Montego Bay.

17. Law 22 of 1869 throws upon the imprisoning creditor the expenses of apprehending, and of carrying to, and maintaining in gaol, the debtor whose person he attaches, all which expenses, strange to say, were formerly made a charge upon the public revenue. This law also requires the imprisoning creditor to lodge with the Gaoler, beforehand, provision for the maintenance of his debtor in gaol at the rate of one shilling a day; and when the money so lodged is expended, the prisoner is immediately released. If so released, he cannot again be incarcerated; but he is not freed from his debt. The effect of this law, speaking practically, has been to put an end to imprisonment for debt, except when the imprisonment is voluntary on the part of the prisoner, as it is in cases intended to be brought under the old insolvent law.

18. By this law the Government took over from the Provost Marshal the control of the Middlesex and Surrey Gaol, and of its establishment, whereby a considerable reduction of expenditure has been effected.

19. Law 24 of 1869 has enabled the Government, upon equitable terms, to arrange with the printer of the 'Government Gazette' for the conversion of what was a meagre, and in respect to its paper and type a discreditable official publication, into one of a creditable character. In the new form of Gazette, all official reports and documents of general interest, the publication of which, in a convenient and permanent form, is considered useful, are regularly printed; and besides the copies of the Gazette officially distributed, copies are available to the public at a moderate price. This has been a very satisfactory measure.

20. Law 27 of 1869 extends and improves Law 5 of 1868, which converted the house tax into a tax for the support of the poor. By the older law the valuation-rating of houses did not extend below houses of the rental of 8*l.* a year. By the new law it extends as low as to houses of the rental of 6*l.* a year. Thus the scale of tax rises from two shillings a year to four shillings, six shillings, and nine shillings a year, when it becomes a percentage on the rental. The leap was formerly from six shillings to twelve shillings, which was abrupt. The efficiency of the new Revenue Establishment rendered this improvement feasible. The new law abolishes an exemption existing under the old law of cottages of labourers on sugar estates; an exemption indefensible in theory, and found to be quite unnecessary in practice.

21. Law 28 of 1869 constitutes a rural police in aid of the Jamaica constabulary.

22. The old rural constabulary was under no discipline or effective command, and was generally admitted to be a thoroughly inefficient body. The "constables," who figure so ill in the Report of the Royal Commission on the disturbances of 1865, belonged to that institution. They were abolished in 1867 as an incumbrance.

23. But although the failure of that system was a sufficient reason for not re-establishing it on its old footing, it was no reason against establishing some system of rural police resembling more or less in some respects the old system of rural constables, but in other important respects differing from that system in such a manner as to introduce hopeful elements, which were wanting in the old system.

24. The new constabulary replaced the old regular police force, but not the old rural constables; and it was from the first a part of the plan, when establishing an improved constabulary in place of the old regular police, that some body of parochial police, in some form or other, should be associated with the constabulary; to perform work for which no organized constabulary or regular police could be sufficiently numerous; and to connect the main police system with the more remote recesses of the Island.

25. By this law resident householders are appointed rural headmen of police. These men receive monthly pay, and have the power of constables. They have a scarf or badge of office, and a small flag is hoisted at their houses. They are subordinate to the Inspector of Police of their parish. Under each headman the Custos of the parish has the power to appoint four resident householders as rural policemen. The headman may call out for service, for a day or more, any of these rural policemen, who are paid and who have the power of constables whilst so serving.

26. The suppression of the crime of larceny of growing produce and of small stock, which had long prevailed, and from which the better classes of the small settlers were the principal sufferers, was one main object of the constitution of this new body. It was thought that the creation of some system whereby a body of detectives could be formed who would be of the people and living amongst the people, was likely to be of some use in the repression of this inveterate evil.

27. The old rural constables were never supposed to have been of any use in the detection or prevention of these larcenies; and indeed they were unpaid, and of course

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were designedly inaffective, except after they had been formally called out by the day for some special duty.

28. There was a general concurrence of opinion, however, in recommending the establishment of a rural police on a new footing, for this and other objects. It is not from any defect in the penal law, that the larcenies in question became so prevalent as they have been ever since the abolition of slavery opened out to the mass of the people inducements in relation to property, to which before they were, fromtheir unhappy positions, strangers.

29. The legal penalty of proved larceny of growing crops is not, in general opinion, excessive in severity. Neither is it too lenient; for the punishment which is here generally believed to be most effectual for this class of crime, namely, flogging, is authorized on a second conviction. But although this flogging law had been for some years in operation; and although for a long series of years the larceny of growing crops has been the chief crime of the Colony; it is only in extremely few instances that corporal punishment has been inflicted. But this has not been, in the main, due to unwillingness on the part of the judges to execute the law.

30. The real difficulty has always been, not in the lawful and exemplary punishment, but in the detection of the offender.

31. It is hoped, that the appointment of a well-selected peasant as a public officer receiving regular pay, and raised to an honourable position amongst his fellows, whose duty it is to detect and denounce offenders, will give the authorities means of proving these midnight larcenies, which by reason of the peculiarly reticent habits in this respect of the negro population, the authorities with their best exertions cannot themselves obtain.

32. In order to overcome the preliminary difficulty of obtaining proof against the actual offenders, in a country where the unofficial neighbours will none of them inform, or give a clue to such evidence as may be available, it became a necessity to arm these new rural police with as much power as it was thought could safely be given them, to enable them to search effectively for stolen property. A clause, therefore, has been inserted in this law, to the effect that if any headman suspects that stolen property is concealed in the house, premises, or lands of any person who has ever been convicted of larceny, or of receiving stolen goods, he shall have power without a search-warrant to enter and search. In the case of persons against whom there is no such conviction, the usual course of procuring a search-warrant from a justice of the peace, who is usually distant, must still be gone through.

33. Time only will teach us how far the objects of this new institution are likely to be realized. My own impression is that a still more stringent law would be a still better law. And if experience shall show, as I hope it may show, that still more extensive powers for rapidly tracing stolen provisions than those which the legislature has thought it prudent to give in this law, can safely be given to these headmen, the prospect of overcoming the evil which it is the object of all to overcome will be improved.

34. The evil is one of magnitude; but no good is done by speaking of it in exaggerated terms, as it is commonly spoken of. The open plunder and robbery of provision grounds which at one time prevailed in parts of the Island, are now unheard of, and indeed forgotten. Thefts of produce by day are not frequent, and those are the thefts that are detected and punished. And as to thefts from fields and gardens at night, these are in Jamaica as nothing to what they would be in India of produce capable of being the subject of such thefts, were not all such produce there systematically and carefully watched in the field, on the part of the cultivator. Here no watching system exists. And against a great inconvenience, this great compensation should be set, that the more heinous offences against property of daily occurrence in more advanced countries, are here extremely rare.

35. Law 30 of 1869, amalgamates two endowed schools in Spanish Town, namely, the Free School of St. Jago de la Vega and Smith's Charity.

36. These two schools had become all but useless for any educational purpose; and practically were answering no other object than unnecessarily to augment the incomes of two of the three clergymen of the Church of England, whom on my arrival in the Colony I found congregated at Spanish Town. Masters at very small salaries were paid by the clergymen in charge, to teach badly a small number of scholars; the main part of the income being retained for superintendence, which, if not quite nominal, was quite futile.

37. Beckford's School was founded in 1735, and it had an income of about 118*l.* a year; Smith's School was founded in 1832, and it had an income of about 108*l.* a year.

38. A Commission, appointed by me in 1867, recommended that the two institutions should be amalgamated into one, to be called the Beckford and Smith's School. In this

recommendation the trustees unanimously concurred; and with their approval this law was passed, which takes the management of both trusts out of their hands. The Governor in Privy Council is now authorized to make rules for the management of these schools.

39. The funds of the new institution have been augmenting, and now amount to a capital sum which affords an annual income of about 235*l.*; sufficient, with some assistance from the revenue, to establish a really good high-class school at the ancient capital of the Colony.

40. Law 31 of 1869 provides for the maintenance by parents and step-parents of their children, and by children of their parents and step-parents, whether the children are legitimate or illegitimate.

41. A main object of this measure is to remove what was an encouragement of one of the worst social habits of the people, viz. the habit of living in concubinage instead of in marriage. This habit, one of the many evil legacies of slavery, is still so prevalent that, although since the abolition of slavery marriages have notably increased, marriage is still rather the exception than the rule.

42. In such a state of things it is manifestly objectionable that there should be anything in the Municipal Law the practical effect of which is to dis-encourage marriage. Such, however, must be the effect of laws whereby the parents of children born in wedlock are bound to support them in early youth, and afterwards if physically incapable of earning their own livlihood; whilst the parents of illegitimate children, though born in avowed and open concubinage, not differing in any outward aspect from marriage, are under no such obligations. And that was the law here.

43. The intention of this measure is to correct this tendency of the former law, by assimilating the liabilities of parents of illegitimate children to those of parents of legitimate children. Another object of the law is to make it no longer possible for a person having means, and being the father of a recognized illegitimate child by a mother having no means, to throw that child upon the parish for support. And it was the intention of the framers of the law to give to one parent of a child born in concubinage the same right as against the other parent, to make him or her share the burden of maintaining the child, that he or she would have if the parents had been joined in marriage.

44. The two first of these objects have been effected, as I have observed that the law has been enforced in practice by parish authorities. I have heard it doubted, though I hope not on sufficient grounds, that the last of them has been effected.

45. The enactment of a law for the affiliation of bastards at the selection of the mother, which may fairly be said to be the English practice, has always been objected to in this Colony, for reasons which are of much practical force.

46. Experience will doubtless shew where amendments of detail may be made, in order the better to carry out the principle of this law; but I apprehend that no objection can be taken to that principle, so far as it goes.

47. Law 33 of 1869 improves the system of apprenticeship and examination of candidates for the office of licensed Surveyors of land; and enforces, under penalty, greater correctness and more fullness of detail in the preparation of diagrams of survey.

48. Law 34 of 1869 amends the Immigration Laws.

49. Much time and attention has been devoted to the preparation of this law, which is founded on the Report of a Commission presented in 1867, and which has been subjected to very full discussion in its progress to maturity.

50. The most important changes introduced relate to the questions of rations, wages, and medical treatment, and to the power of enforcing the law on behalf of both employers and immigrants; for which purpose in small matters the officers of the Immigration Department, and in graver cases the judges of the District Courts, have jurisdiction under this law.

51. By former Acts the employer of coolie labourers was bound to provide the immigrants with rations for the first three months after arrival. At the expiration of these three months rations ceased, and the coolie became wholly dependent on money wages. Although the law and the indentures contemplated the payment of day wages to the coolie at the current rate, not being less than one shilling a day, in practice he was paid almost invariably by task work; and the wages usually earned by the mass of those under indenture were but a small fraction of a shilling a day.

52. The practical result of the whole system was, that a very large number of coolies were constantly on the verge of starvation, and so were not merely not doing any useful work, and incapable of doing any, but had become under the system unable ever to obtain the means of recovering health and strength. Thus, to say nothing of higher considera-

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tions, the result of this action and reaction of an unregulated task system, was to burthen the Colony with a mass of inefficient labourers, imported at a very heavy expense.

53. This has been remedied by insisting that every coolie shall receive, either in food or money, three shillings and sixpence a week. This was the cost of his food when in hospital; and for this he can support himself in health.

54. By the present law, based (with some modification, however) on the system which is found to work very well in Mauritius, the employer, as a general rule, is required to supply daily rations to every Indian immigrant during the whole of his indentured service (which lasts for five years), according to a scale and price to be fixed from time to time by the Governor in Privy Council. This ensures to all, strong and weak, under all circumstances, a sufficiency of wholesome and suitable food to keep a working Indian labourer in health and strength. Provision, however, is made (and this is an important qualification of the Mauritius system) that on the Agent-General of Immigration being satisfied as to the safety of the measure, then on the application of the immigrant, and subject to such instructions as the Governor may give, the Agent-General may direct that such immigrant shall receive the whole of his wages in money, payable weekly. This order may be revoked when necessary.

55. Every adult immigrant, in the absence of express agreement, and except under certain conditions, is bound to work fairly six days of the week, for nine hours of each day. If he fails to fulfil this part of his agreement he is liable to punishment by order of the departmental officer in slight cases, and of the district judges in serious cases. The punishment involves forfeiture of money wages (but not of rations, unless the defendant is sent to prison, when he falls under prison discipline), but the employer is not authorized to withhold wages at his own discretion.

56. Wages are to be paid to males above 16 years of age at a rate of not less than 1*s.* a day; and to males between 12 and 16 years of age, and to all females of any age, at a rate of not less than 9*d.* a day. By mutual agreement, sanctioned by the Agent-General, the immigrant may do task work if he shall be able to earn thereby 1*s.* or more; and every employer is bound to find work for, or at least to pay every immigrant, for six days in each week.

57. By the former law the medical man employed to attend coolies was appointed, and his remuneration was fixed, by the employer; and he was liable to be dismissed by the employer. By this law the Government appoints, removes, and pays the medical man; and to the medical man, therefore, the immigration department is now able, with some confidence, to look for information and support in all that relates to the health of the coolie.

58. The Governor is also authorized to constitute union hospitals in any district for the reception of such immigrants, in place of the estate hospitals; the cost of such union hospitals, beyond that of the mere food of the inmates, being made a charge upon the Immigration Fund.

59. These hospital arrangements will be, I believe, less costly on the whole than the old system. They will be of very material relief to the employer, and they will be of great benefit to the health of the coolie.

60. The Governor is empowered to relieve employers from the charge of immigrants incapable of service from permanent infirmity, and to direct that such immigrant be received and maintained at the charge of the Immigration Fund in any union hospital, or in general depôt for coolies.

61. The former laws afforded no effectual means for their own enforcement in practice, the powers of the officers of the department being quite inadequate, especially as against the employer. Those laws were therefore in the main a dead letter. The present law, in all cases beyond the power of the departmental officers properly to deal with, gives jurisdiction to the District Courts, by which means the provisions of the law become really enforceable in practice.

62. That this law is a great improvement on the old law is demonstrable by the improved appearance of the coolies, and by the monthly returns of the department. That it is not unfavourably regarded by the planters may be inferred, I hope, from the increasing number of applications for imported labourers.

63. Law 37 of 1869 is an amended quarantine law, framed in accordance with the law recommended by the Colonial Office for general observance.

64. Law 38 of 1869 is a law for the prevention of nuisances caused by unoccupied and neglected lands in towns in this Island. The ill effects of the abandonment of property by the owners, so common in this Colony, are prejudicial to the public interests in the towns, as well as in the country. Masses of unwholesome jungle and dangerous ruins are serious nuisances in towns.

65. By this law the Municipal Board, in the event of no owner being discoverable, or of the owner neglecting to remove the nuisance, have the power, under proper regulations, to sell on behalf of the owner any such abandoned property, after proceedings duly taken before the District Court and (by a subsequent Law 26 of 1870) after publication in the 'London Gazette.'

66. Law 39 of 1869 was passed in accordance with arrangements sanctioned by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, for an adjustment on a fair footing of the several guaranteed loans for an aggregate sum of 600,000*l.*, which have since been embodied in the Imperial Statute 32 and 33 Vic., cap. 69.

67. The financial effect of these arrangements will be—First, an immediate relief to the Colonial Exchequer, in the form of a reduced payment for interest and sinking fund of 15,168*l.* per annum for the next two years, of 12,252*l.* per annum for the nine years next following, and of 7,944*l.* per annum for the four years following this last term. And secondly, a positive saving of money, which under the old arrangement would have been absolutely wasted, between the time of making the new arrangement and the complete redemption of the debt, which waste is calculated at no less a sum than 60,800*l.* This large and absolute saving has been effected by putting a stop to an annually increasing loss of money at compound interest, arising from the difference of rates between the interest paid on the debt and the interest accruing upon the sinking fund maintained for its redemption.

68. The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have been authorized to pay off, by means of the sinking fund already realized (about 237,160*l.*), such of the creditors as were willing to accept payment on admissible terms, granting new debentures for a term of thirty years for the remainder. And the sinking fund to meet final redemption is allowed to be invested in approved Indian or Colonial securities, whereby the rate of the interest accruing on the sinking fund will be at least not less than the rate of that paid on the gross debt.

69. Law 44 of 1869 repeals the export duty on pimento and ginger.

70. The export duties are all appropriated to the immigration service, and form no part of the revenue available for general purposes. They were originally imposed on several specified products, but the selection of products to be made liable to export duty was made on no definite principle. They were fairly imposed on products raised by those producers who, as a body, benefit by the immigration system, and as a body desire its continuance, as being conducive to their particular interests. But this reason cannot apply to the products raised by small settlers, who derive no benefit from the immigration system. For this reason, in the year 1867, in order to relieve the growers of small produce, the export duty was taken off arrowroot, beeswax, cocoanuts, and honey; and at the same time the duty was taken off mahogany, which afforded only a trifling revenue.

71. Following out the same principle, the present law was passed. The extreme fall in the price of pimento which has taken place in late years has so seriously affected this formerly very valuable staple, that it is often a question with the owner whether to take off and ship the crop, or to let it fall on the ground and rot. An article of export in such a precarious condition could no longer be a fitting subject for any sort of duty whatever. Ginger is entirely produced by the small settlers, and the production of neither of these articles is benefited by the immigration system.

72. The only export duties now remaining are upon sugar, rum, coffee, and dyewoods.

73. Law 45 of 1869 allows certain Attorneys, licensed by the Judges, to practise as Counsel in the Supreme Court.

74. The Bar in this Island having declined in point of numbers below the requirements of suitors, the Judges of the Supreme Court are empowered by this law to admit such a number of persons as they shall think proper, being Attorneys of not less than seven years' standing, to be Advocates, who shall be entitled to practise as Counsel, and shall have precedence immediately after the Bar. I am informed that the good effect of this reform (which was in fact the abolition of a monopoly that had become indefensible) on the conduct of cases tried in the Supreme Court has been very apparent.

75. Law 47 of 1869 authorizes the issue of debentures at five per cent., in substitution of debentures at six per cent.

76. The object of this law is to convert, as far and as fast as possible, the whole of the unguaranteed Island debt charged against the general revenue, and bearing interest at six per cent., into debt bearing five per cent. interest. A further but secondary object is to consolidate, as soon as practicable, into one loan the large number of loans now out-

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standing, for different purposes, under many different laws, having different conditions and terms of repayment.

77. A portion of the unguaranteed debentures, amounting to 76,550*l.*, became redeemable at the option of the Government in the year 1870; and a further amount of 8,000*l.* became in like manner redeemable in 1871. This law was passed for the purpose of enabling the Government, after calling in these debentures, to offer to the debenture holders either payment of their debt on maturity, or permission to convert their securities into new five per cent. debentures, irredeemable for ten years. A further purpose of this law was to induce a similar reduction of interest, upon terms mutually beneficial both to the creditors and to the Colony, of debentures not liable to be called in at an early date; and also to enable the Government hereafter, in the case of those who refuse to convert their long debentures on the terms proposed by Government, as such unconverted six per cent. debentures approach maturity, if it shall see fit, to raise money at five per cent., in order to the paying off of the six per cent. debentures.

78. Two loans, to the aggregate amount of 20,950*l.*, were exempted from the scheme of conversion. The debentures of both these loans were called in, and have been paid off out of surplus revenue.

79. The only other loans exempt from the scheme of conversion are the loans raised for immigration purposes, for the reconstruction of Kingston streets, and for the new Market in Kingston. These loans are distinct from the general debt of the Colony; they are charges upon special funds, and special provisions exist for their redemption.

80. The conversion of the six per cent. debts above mentioned as being liable to be paid off in 1869–70 into a five per cent. debt, has been easily effected, the greater part of the debenture holders having consented to the terms of conversion offered to them by the Government; and the dissentients, holding to the amount of 17,250*l.*, having all been paid off out of the surplus revenue in the course of the current year. This reduction of the general rate of interest on the Island debentures is an incontestible proof of the good credit which this Colony has now attained; and combined with the large redemption of debt effected simultaneously, is a very substantial relief to the finances.

81. Law 49 of 1869 introduces a nickel coinage of pennies and halfpennies into this Colony. Formerly there was no small coin current, excepting small silver coins; and of these there were none lower than pieces of the value of three-halfpence. The want of small coins had become seriously inconvenient, especially to the poorer classes. It was believed that the negroes had a strong prejudice against copper or bronze coins. By the introduction of nickel coins, the colonists of Jamaica have obtained a lighter and cleaner small coin than that in use at home.

82. Up to this time 2,000*l.* worth of nickel pence and halfpence have been received from Her Majesty's Mint, whereof about three-fourths are already in circulation.

83. Several adaptations of late improvements in the laws of England were made by the Legislative Council in 1869. The law regarding investigations into the conduct of masters of merchant vessels wrecked was amended. A law requiring capital sentences to be carried out within prisons was passed; a treason-felony law, being an adaptation of the English statute on the subject, was passed; and a law amending the practice and procedure of the Court of Chancery, being an adaptation of selected portions of the English statutes 15 and 16 Victoria, c. 87, and of the third part of the statute (Ireland) 30 and 31 Victoria, chapter 44, was passed.

Finance.

84. The present Report embraces the financial year 1868–69, which closed on the 30th September, 1869. This is the third financial year since the new Constitution was inaugurated.

85. In my last year's Report, though unable at the date when it was written to give any precise figures for the year 1868-69, I stated that the accounts of this year, when closed, would certainly show a large surplus, which might be estimated at 50,000*l.* or thereabouts. The actual result, as now shown in precise figures, has much more than borne out that anticipation. The surplus of the financial year now under report, after deducting from it 14,930*l.* paid to sinking funds for the eventual redemption of debt, and a further sum of 6,800*l.* paid within the year in actual extinction of debt, amounted to 58,896*l.*

86. The year immediately preceding showed, after corresponding deductions, a surplus of only 423*l.*, that having been the first year in the history of the Colony for an indefinite period in which there was not a deficit.

87. This large increase of surplus, as there was no increase of taxation imposed in

the latter year, is very satisfactory. Of this increase of surplus about 3,820*l.* must be attributed to the operation for twelve months of a tax which only operated for nine months and a half of the year immediately preceding. But the remainder, viz. 55,076*l.*, must be wholly attributed to the increased yield of the same taxes, by reason of increased general prosperity and better collection. Indeed the case is thus much understated, because in the latter year there was an increased expenditure of 11,535*l.* upon roads and other public works, and of 34*l.* net upon other things.

88. The following are the figures in the books, which give the actual results of the financial year 1868–69:—

	£	s.	d.
General Revenue - - -	414,826	0	0
Expenditure - - - -	355,247	0	0
Difference - - -	£59,579	0	0

89. From this last sum must be deducted a sum of 683*l.* for expenditure within the year, which had not been brought to account before the close of the year's books, leaving a real surplus of 58,896*l.*

90. If the sum of 6,800*l.*, applied in extinction of debt, were treated, as it properly should be, in a debt account, and not as though it were a part of the current expenditure, the true surplus of the year would be shown to have been 65,696*l.*

91. The Immigration Fund account is not included in the above figures: its Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1868–9 were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Revenue - - - -	27,612	19	9
Expenditure - - - -	32,476	17	1
Difference - - -	£4,863	17	4

The excess of expenditure over revenue on this head has been met from the moneys in the chest at the beginning of the year, belonging to the Immigration Fund.

92. The following table gives the whole of the Treasury receipts of the year 1868–69, both of revenue and of other moneys, as compared with those of the year immediately preceding; showing an increase on last year's revenue of 70,724*l.*

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS FOR THE YEARS 1868–69 AND 1867–68.

	1868–69.			1867–68.			More.			Less.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Import Duty—(old) - -	184,632	14	7	148,532	10	7	36,100	4	0	—		
„ (additional) - -	18,465	10	0	11,390	11	2	7,074	18	10	—		
Tonnage Dues - - -	17,166	2	7	12,666	16	6	4,499	6	1	—		
Excise—Rum Duty - - -	74,178	4	6	62,134	3	1	12,044	1	5	—		
Spirit Licences - -	11,537	10	0	10,722	4	7	815	5	5	—		
Trade Licences—Old - - -	471	16	0	313	3	6	158	12	6	—		
„ New - -	6,922	3	10	6,878	16	8	43	7	2	—		
Stamps - - - - -	12,365	2	4½	9,584	0	4½	2,781	2	0	—		
Land Tax—Old—Roads - -	8,516	4	2¾	9,006	1	9½	—			489	17	6¾
„ New—Property Tax -	4,566	7	5¼	3,880	9	1¾	685	18	3½	—		
House Tax—Poor Rate - -	16,497	2	10¾	14,410	19	2	2,086	3	8¾	—		
Horse and Wheel Tax—Roads -	21,571	8	10	21,892	10	10½	—			321	2	0½
Tax on Stock, &c. - - -	8,848	2	10½	6,237	0	9½	2,611	2	1	—		
Dog Tax - - - - -	193	12	0	203	16	0	—			10	4	0
Post Office - - - - -	12,739	2	9	11,527	10	7	1,211	12	2	—		
Miscellaneous - - -	16,155	8	10	14,721	8	7¾	1,434	0	2¼	—		
Total Revenue - -	414,826	13	8¾	344,102	3	5½	70,724	10	3	—		
RECEIPTS ON ACCOUNT OF EMIGRATION FUND.												
Export Duty - - -	23,773	9	5	22,431	9	8	1,341	19	9	—		
Capitation Tax - - -	3,839	10	4	1,568	4	9	2,271	5	7	—		
RECEIPTS ON DEBT ACCOUNT.												
Loan Moneys - - -	—			8,150	0	0	—			—		
Excess of Deposits in Treasury over withdrawals - - -	37,457	15	10	23,117	4	2	—			—		
Grand Total Receipts -	479,897	9	3¾	399,369	2	0½	80,528	7	3¼	—		

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93. It is only in the item of "Import duty additional" (which operated for twelve months in the latter year, but only for nine months and a half in the former year) that the increase of revenue shown in the above table is in any degree due to taxation not in force during the whole of the preceding year. The increased productiveness of other taxes under the heads of "Import duty, old," "Tonnage dues," "Excise," "Stamps," and "Post Office," is a satisfactory index of the advancing prosperity of the Colony.

94. The expenditure in the past year, 1868-69, amounted to 355,247*l.*, as against 343,648*l.* in the year 1867-68. This increase is caused almost wholly by an increased expenditure of 11,535*l.* on roads, buildings, and works; an expenditure which was very much required, and was fully warranted by the existing state of the finances.

95. Below is a table showing the Treasury disbursements of the year under report, both on account of current expenditure and on other accounts, contrasted with those of the preceding year.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEARS 1868–69 AND 1867–68.

	1868–69.	1867–68.	More.	Less.
	£	£	£	£
Civil	20,024	21,245	—	1,221
Judicial	15,332	17,728	—	2,396
„ (new) District Courts	10,118	6,125	3,993	—
Revenue	30,394	27,601	2,793	—
Botanic Garden, &c.	1,233	1,222	11	—
Post Office	10,782	11,045	—	263
Ecclesiastical	25,527	26,514	—	987
Medical	16,931	14,030	2,901	—
Police	38,921	7,135	—	1,354
Constabulary		33,120		
Prisons	20,624	24,814	—	4,190
Education	6,244	4,120	2,124	—
Miscellaneous	4,480	2,634	1,846	—
Military	1,621	1,494	127	—
Roads	35,419	28,936	6,483	—
Buildings	9,053	4,001	5,052	—
Pensions	8,684	8,429	255	—
Lighthouses	1,288	1,301	—	13
Parochial Officers	542	1,904	—	1,362
„ „ Ecclesiastical	—	396	—	396
„ „ General	26,175	28,421	—	2,246
Interest on Debt	50,125	49,793	332	—
Total current Expenditure	333,517	322,008	11,509	—
Sinking Fund	14,930	14,770	160	—
Redemption of Debt	6,800	6,900	—	100
Total Disbursements, exclusive of Charges on Emigration Fund Account	355,247	343,678	11,569	—
Charges on Emigration Fund Account	32,477	15,118	17,359	—
Grand Total Disbursements	387,724	358,796	28,928	—

96. In my opinion, considering the condition of the finances, the above statement is more satisfactory in respect of those items in which the expenditure was more than that of the preceding year, than it is even in respect of those items in which it was less.

97. This improvement in the finances has enabled the Legislative Council, in the course of the now current year, to carry out all the reductions in taxation contemplated in my last year's Report. These reductions will be brought to notice in full detail in my next year's Report upon the Blue Book of the current year. But I may here say, in a summary manner, that of the additional taxes imposed under the new Constitution in order to repair the ruin inherited from the old Constitution, the one-tenth additional Import duty, yielding 18,465*l.*, has been taken off; and that of the taxes of old standing, the Tonnage dues (exclusive of light dues), yielding 14,314*l.*, and the tax on breeding-stock, yielding 8,848*l.*, have been taken off. In all, according to the yield of 1868–69, these reductions of taxation amount to 41,627*l.* of which 23,162*l.* are due to the abolition of old taxes. The gross yield in 1868–69 of the only taxes newly imposed under the present Constitution, which still remain in force, was 6,922*l.* from "Trade licences, new;" 4,566*l.* from "New Property tax;" about 12,226 from the "House tax" (poor-rate) on houses formerly exempted from tax; and 193*l.* from the "Dog tax:" in all, 23,907*l.* This last sum, representing the new taxes imposed, may fairly be set off against the sum of 23,162*l.* representing the old taxes taken off.

98. The real increase of taxation has been in a large increase of the rate of the excise on rum, and a small increase of import duties consequent on the adjustment of the tariff in 1867.

99. The rum duty was raised in 1866, when the new Constitution came into operation, from two shillings and ninepence to five shillings a gallon. This gave an increased yield in 1868-69 of 33,381*l.* And in April, 1867, a slight modification was made in the tariff of import duties. On that occasion certain articles formerly charged with duty, consisting mainly of machinery and such like things required for the production of the staples of the Colony, and the development of its industry, were admitted free, from which the loss of customs duty this year was 1,683*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* On a few other articles, from reduced duty, a loss of 612*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.* occurred; and the duty on some other articles was increased, which increase yielded this year 19,713*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* The main part of this additional yield was from oils, tobacco in its various forms, wines, spirits, beer, and similar luxuries. The net difference this year was 17,417*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.*

100. These two sums, 33,381*l.* and 17,418*l.*, amounting together to 50,799*l.*, raised, I conceive, from the most legitimate of all sources, represent virtually the costs at which a deficit of 60,000*l.*, and a condition of imminent insolvency, have been converted into a large surplus, and a financial condition of unparalleled strength.

101. In future years large savings of expenditure will be caused by the redemption of debt, from surplus revenue having been applied to that object; by the operation on the guaranteed loan of Law 39 of 1869; and by the conversion of 6 per cent. debt into 5 per cent. debt, under Law 47 of 1869. But beyond the description of the two last-named laws, given under a preceding head of this Report, the time for a figured statement of the results of these measures has not arrived. I may here, however, shortly report that 38,200*l.* of the unguaranteed debt have been called in for payment out of surplus revenue; that 63,850*l.* of the remainder has been already converted from 6 per cent. into 5 per cent. debentures; and that a liberal expenditure has been made in the course of the current year on the most urgently needed public works.

102. Although at this date the financial year 1869–70 has closed, the results cannot yet be precisely shown in figures. It is already certain, however, that the revenue (allowance being made of course for the very large amount of taxes abolished in the course of the year) will be found to have improved materially beyond that of the year 1868–69, to which the present Report belongs. It is expected that another surplus (exclusive of course of debt paid off out of surplus) of from 25,000*l.* to 30,000*l.* will be shown when the accounts of 1869–70 are adjusted.

Pensions.

103. Pensions to the amount of 400*l.* a year were granted to clergymen retiring from the Establishment, whose places will not be filled. And special compensation, in the form of pensions to the extent of 966*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.* a year, was granted in the course of the financial year to other officers who had lost their office in consequence of economical reforms introduced into their departments.

104. Under the general superannuation system introduced, pensions were granted in regular course, amounting to 574*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* a year; and the pension list has been relieved to the amount of 578*l.* 16*s.* a year by deaths in the course of the year.

Debt.

105. No Island Loan, that is to say no loan for which the general revenues of the Island are responsible, was raised in the course of this year. But under the provisions of Law 7 of 1869 certain officials were appointed Commissioners for the erection of a new market and public landing-place in Kingston, for which purpose a loan of 20,000*l.* was authorized to be raised on the security of the sites of the markets, and of revenue to be derived from the market fees. Of this sum 5,000*l.* were raised by the Commissioners during the year, and have been lodged to their credit in the Public Treasury.

106. This Market Loan is raised on debentures, bearing 6 per cent. interest, redeemable in thirty years at farthest, but not before ten years. It is raised in instalments, as required from time to time for the purchase of land and the erection of the buildings. These instalments have been raised by way of tenders; by which means premiums, varying from 1½ to 7 per cent., have been obtained upon the debentures issued for the benefit of the Market Funds.

107. During the year, besides redeeming from revenue a sum of 6,800*l.* of principal money of old Island Loans, raised for general purposes, 4,000*l.* of the outstanding

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Immigration Loan, for which the Immigration Fund was liable, were paid off, by the accumulations of the Sinking Fund devoted thereto. A sum of 14,930*l.* was invested in Sinking Funds for the eventual redemption of debt, on account of Island Loans for general objects, and an investment of 4,962*l.* 6*s.* was made, on the like account, from the Immigration Revenues, in respect of Immigration Loans.

108. The Public Debt stood as follows on the 30th September of each of the last five years, after making allowance for the Sinking Fund invested for the redemption of debt:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1865 - - -	734,717	17	6
1866 - - -	757,316	17	8
1867 - - -	788,090	19	1
1868 - - -	771,140	12	3
1869 - - -	746,043	17	5

But to these sums must be added the amounts due by the Treasury to certain local works, for which loans had been specially raised, under statute, by the late Government. These amounts were at one time larger, but at the close of 1869 were reduced to about 14,694*l.*

109. As on the 30th September, 1870, I am informed that the Public Debt, as above, will be entered at about 665,644*l.*; exhibiting certainly a very satisfactory reduction.

110. The interest paid this year on all loans amounted to 54,633*l.* This added to the money invested this year, in all Sinking Funds, amounting to 19,892*l.*, acts as a very heavy dead weight to be borne by the present generation of colonists. The Sinking Funds, producing as they do no immediate and no near effect in reducing the interest payable, seem to me to have been injudiciously large, in comparison with the revenue. The new arrangement, however, for the guaranteed loan, whereby a large sum at the credit of the Sinking Fund is rightfully applied to the direct and immediate extinction of debt whereon interest at once ceases, will materially reduce the pressure of this burthen.

Public Works.

111. On the roads and bridges the following sums have been spent in the last four financial years ending 30th September, exclusive for the year 1866 of a sum of 2,203*l.*, from the balance of a loan raised by the late Government for main road purposes:—

	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.
	£	£	£	£
Main Roads - -	18,182	12,710	15,746	18,840
Parochial Roads - -	12,464	14,093	13,190	16,579
	£30,646	26,803	28,936	35,419

112. Formerly the main roads were under an unpaid Main Road Board, constituted chiefly of the Executive Committee. Under the new Constitution they are under a Director of Roads, a salaried high official.

113. For the two years which ended on the 30th September, 1866, before the establishment of the Department of Director of Roads (during which years no floods occurred to disturb the ordinary course of work), the expense of the repairs and maintenance of the main roads, excluding all permanent improvements, averaged 26*l.* 4*s.* a mile per annum. In 1866, and in the early part of 1867, the main roads were not in good order. At the end of 1869 they were in excellent order, as I can myself testify, having travelled over a great part of the Island in 1869 and early in 1870. The corresponding average cost for the two years and three quarters which ended on the 30th September, 1869 (in which time the Department was under the Director of Roads), including the extra repairs, and in some places the reconstructions rendered necessary by an extraordinary flood in 1867, was 19*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* a mile. This saving of 6*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* a mile, equal to nearly 25 per cent., was entirely owing to the good management and efficient supervision of Colonel Mann, of the Royal Engineers, the present Head of this Department, as also of the Departments of Land and Public Works. The difference is due to the cessation, under Colonel Mann's management, of the abuses which prevailed under the old order of things.

114. An incident that occurred to myself will elucidate the old system. Some time

after the constitution of the Road Department, a respectable-looking person came to me in a state of very great irritation, complaining loudly that Colonel Mann had taken away a road of his, in consequence of which act of oppression he and his large family had come to ruin. From the manner in which he spoke, I fancied that he must have been a sufferer in consequence of the change or stoppage of a road running through some ancestral property. On inquiry I found that the complainant had been for several years the holder of a contract for a portion of main road, at an excessive rate, which he had made over with a very small allowance to a sub-contractor, who had spent nothing on the road for some time. In consequence of this breach of contract the Department had been obliged to make the necessary repairs itself, and had dissolved or declined to renew the contract. The novelty of this measure was such, that the man, I am convinced, sincerely believed himself much oppressed.

115. Of the amount expended, as above entered, this year upon main roads, 4,944*l.* was spent upon new roads and bridges.

116. A new road on a new line, between Port Maria and Annotto Bay, replacing "a so-called road quite impassable in the rainy season" was commenced. This completes the line of coast road round the Island, the break in which has been a subject of strong and just complaint for many years past. The new road is now finished.

117. A long unfinished stretch of the Annotto Bay Junction Road (a very costly work running across the Island) commenced in 1856, was this year completed, whereby four unbridged crossings of the Agua-alta river, frequently impassable, are avoided. There is now a good and direct carriage road from Kingston to the north side, passable in all weathers.

118. An iron girder bridge over the Flint River, on the main road between Montego Bay and Lucea, was completed. The girders for this work had been lying for some time useless in Kingston.

119. The parochial roads are under the management of the Road Boards of the several parishes, consisting of members selected by the Governor, usually at the recommendation of the Custos.

120. In the course of the financial year 1868–69, 6,583*l.* were spent on the repairs of works other than roads and bridges; and 5,136*l.* upon new works of this description.

121. *Lepers' Home Buildings* for the new Lepers' Home at Healthshire, capable of containing about eighty lepers, were erected. All the lepers in the Island supported at the public cost are suitably and comfortably housed in these buildings, on land purchased for the purpose. The house is on the sea-shore, and the site is healthy, and has an ample supply of fresh water. This new Home replaces a disgraceful Lepers' Home which formerly existed in the heart of Kingston; and a bad one which formerly existed near Falmouth, on the north side. Lazaretto buildings have been added to those formerly existing at the Apostle's Battery, which makes this place into a very convenient lazaretto, capable of accommodating two hundred persons in quarantine.

122. *Union Hospitals.* — Three Union Hospitals for coolies were erected and furnished.

123. *Reformatories.* — The extensive ranges of barracks and officers' quarters at Stony Hill, which had long been standing useless, were repaired and refitted, so as to be transformed partly into a large and commodious Government Reformatory for boys and girls, and partly into a Government Training School for the education of schoolmasters.

124. *Cinchona Plantation.*—A house for the residence of the superintendent of the Cinchona Plantation, on Blue Mountain, was built this year.

125. *Lunatic Asylum.*—Two extensive ranges of cells on the separate system were commenced at the Lunatic Asylum, one for males and the other for females. This work is now finished, and completes the original plan of this admirable Institution. Thus a very pressing and distressing evil of which Dr. Allen, the able and zealous superintendent of the Asylum, has long with good reason complained, has been at last removed. Its removal at an earlier period was impossible, for want of money to pay workmen.

126. *Lock Hospital.*—A Lock Hospital at Kingston, now completed, was commenced.

127. *New Market.*—The site for the new Market in Kingston, after some difficulty was obtained, and the preparation of the land for erecting the buildings was commenced. Since the close of the year under report, great progress has been made in this important work. The market is now more than half covered in. The iron-work of which the building is formed was procured in England at a cost of 8,483*l.* 15*s.*. This new market will have an area of 3,708 square yards, under cover. The length of the stalls will be 1,840 feet, in 92 portions of 20 feet each. This building when completed (which will be very soon),

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will be the finest market-place in the West Indies; and, to say nothing of the main reasons for which it was erected, will be an ornament to the city of Kingston, replacing what is now a disgrace to it. And this will be effected without augmentation of the market dues heretofore charged.

128. A handsome stone quay-wall separates the platform on which the market stands from the sea, with two good landing places attached—one for market boats and one for the general public. This last will replace what was the only public landing place in the port, which the late Mayor and Corporation allowed, one would almost suppose purposely, to fall into such complete ruin as to have become impassable.

129. *Falmouth Harbour.*—An important work for the improvement of Falmouth Harbour, by the removal of a very dangerous rock at the entrance, was commenced. This rock, over which there were but 14 feet of water, obstructed the entrance, which otherwise is narrow, and made it necessary for vessels to make a sharp and dangerous turn in entering or leaving the port, and had thus caused the loss of some, and the damage of several vessels; preventing large ships from using the harbour. This rock has now been removed to a depth of 24 feet; and shoals and rocks constituting dangers inside the harbour have been buoyed. As Falmouth is the most considerable port in Jamaica next to Kingston, this improvement, which will be completed at a moderate cost, is one of great benefit to the north side of the Island.

District Courts.

130. In the course of the year 1869 the establishment of the new District Courts over the whole Island was completed by the constitution of three more courts, making altogether eight District Courts. The amount of business transacted in the course of the year in these courts is shown in the following table:—

	1868	1869
Criminal trials	348	1,256
Small causes	2,091	3,133
Equity cases	10	2
Cases under the Land Law	86	133
Insolvency cases	nil	9
Probate cases	nil	35

	1868 £	s.	d.	1869 £	d.	s.
Amount claimed	16,393	6	4¾	22,919	4	4¾
Paid into Court before judgment	613	2	0½	920	3	1
Judgment obtained for	8,997	2	5¼	11,386	4	9
Costs	1,163	9	7½	2,108	13	0¾
Court fees	1,237	17	4	2,153	19	3

131. Besides the amount adjudged, it is known that a large part of the remainder of the amount claimed is always paid by defendants, under arrangement made out of court for withdrawing the suit.

Botanical Gardens and Plantations.

132. The young Botanic Garden at Castleton received, in the course of the year 1869, a vast acquisition of new and valuable plants. The superintendent reports, that "the "garden has thus been enriched by the importation of new and important species with a "rapidity perhaps unsurpassed in botanic gardens. Such, indeed, has been the enormous "demand upon the Royal Gardens, Kew, from which nearly all our plants have come, "that the resources of that great establishment have been drained with respect to tropical "species in a manner never before experienced. The total number of species and "varieties imported is upwards of 400, closely approaching numerically the previous "collection. Great benefit must eventually accrue to the well-being of this country "by the introduction, propagation, and dissemination of the various useful and special "productions of all tropical climes.

* * * * * * * * * *

"The Jamaica Botanic Gardens, with its hitherto meagre collection of plants and precarious existence, now enters into an extended sphere of usefulness, and promises ere long to become one of the great botanical institutions of the Colonies."

133. Amongst the acquisitions within the year under report, the superintendent enumerates the following species:—King cocoanuts, Brazil nuts, bliel, Monstera-

deliciosa, carib-beans, malacca-beans, croton oil, cocoa, Winter's-bark tonquin-beans, upas-tree, teak, mord timber, sandalwood, sissoo, satinwood (India), gum-trees, tallow-trees, New Zealand flax, South Sea arrowroot, doom-palm, dragon-tree, &c.

134. An experimental plot of nearly a quarter of an acre of china-grass, from which the china-grass cloth is made, was planted with a successful result. Although in planting it two important mistakes were committed (which experience has since rectified), the weight of the unprepared dry fibre, taken from a measured portion, was at the rate of 300 pounds per acre at each cutting, of which five are yielded annually at Castleton; making thus an aggregate of 1,500 pounds per acre per annum. The fibre is said to be valued in this state in London at 40*l.* per ton; but the prepared fibre, according to the above yield, would be 10 cwt. per acre annually, worth 80*l.* a ton.

135. A plot of latakia tobacco, this species being selected on account of its free growing and vigorous habit, has been tried; and a sample has been forwarded, through the kindness of Dr. Hooker, to a great London authority on the subject, who reports very favourably of the quality, and says, after suggesting some improvements as to its preparation for the market, that the general appearance of the leaf is such that its cultivation should be encouraged in Jamaica. Sisal hempt (agave sisalana), a species of the American aloe, to the extent of 8,000 plants, has been propagated during the year; of which, at the close of the year, 5,000 had been disposed of to private persons, or had been applied for. As this plant is suited for waste arid lands, it is well worthy of encouragement. It is said that an acre will yield more than a ton of fibre at the end of four or five years, worth upwards of 40*l.*

136. The cinchona plantation has made admirable progress. At the close of 1867, fifteen months after the first permanent planting out of the cinchonas in the Great Blue Mountain Plantation, 40 acres were filled with thriving plants. At the present moment I am informed that 90 acres are so filled, and that 90 more are cleared and ready for planting at the proper season. Some of the trees are already 10 feet high, and the superintendent considers an annual growth of three feet a fair average. Some of the trees, at the close of the year 1869, had stems five and six inches in circumference; and the superintendent writes, that from all the accounts which have come under his notice as to the rate of growth in India and elsewhere, the rate of growth in Jamaica is unequalled.

137. A fortunate event has happened in the seeding of one of the cinchona trees of those originally planted experimentally, belonging to one of the valuable sorts which was with us scarce. The seeds have germinated quite satisfactorily. I am informed that another and a much younger tree, of a different much-desired sort, is now in blossom. That this climate is peculiarly well suited for the cinchona can no longer be doubted.

138. An extensive clearance of weeds and low bushes has been made on the long, narrow spit of waste sand, called the Palisadoes, which separates Kingston Harbour from the sea. The length of this spit, at the western extremity of which is Port Royal, is about eight miles. At present about 225 acres of this waste have been planted with cocoanut trees, about nine thousand in number, which are doing very well. It is intended thus to plant the whole of that portion of the spit which is Crown property. That the trees will flourish there is proved by the condition of a few scores of trees planted near the Lighthouse, a few years ago, by the Lighthouse Commissioners, experimentally. The clearing and planting have been done by Penitentiary prisoners.

139. It is a low and safe estimate to take the value of the produce of an acre of cocoanut trees in bearing at from 8*l.* to 10*l.* On the sea-shore these trees begin to bear in six or seven years. A great part of the waste shores of this island is very suitable for the growth of the cocoanut; and the demand for this most useful of all fruits, even where no machinery has been erected for the preparation of its products, is unlimited. The disease which destroyed the cocoanut tree in some West Indian Islands is unknown here. Within the last three or four years cocoanut trees have been planted, especially on the north side of the Island, more extensively than ever before. I know of a few good groves of cocoa-nuts on that side; but in the whole Island I have been able to hear of only two plantations of these trees, both belonging to the same owner, on what can be called a great commercial scale. These are in Portland and St. Mary, and are only just come or coming into full bearing. The proper machinery for expressing the oil and cleaning the fibre, as I am informed, has been set up at considerable expense. It was one object of this Government plantation now formed on the Palisadoes, besides the conversion of an unsightly and worthless waste into a valuable and handsome grove, to show here on the south side how, at small cost, the waste and sandy shores of this Island are convertible into land yielding a very high rate of annual profit.

140. This work on the Palisadoes is still in progress. Between the trees some senna

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has been planted, which is expected to be a valuable product. This bush, capable of producing leaves of quite the best quality (being in fact the Alexandrian senna), is found growing wild on the Palisadoes, and on parts of the neighbouring coast.

Education.

141. The improvement in this important Department, of which I held out an expectation in my last year's Report, has been fully realized, as shown by the results of the inspection of 1869, which was the second year of the operation of the new system of grants in aid of elementary schools, instituted in 1867.

142. Of 270 schools on the Inspector's list in 1869, eight eventually declined inspection, and 262 were carefully inspected by the Inspector and his assistants. This number is, by 24, less than the number of schools inspected last year; the net decrease being attributable to the knowledge that it is now useless for a very inefficient school to apply for aid. There were, however, of the number inspected, 32 schools which applied for inspection this year for the first time. Whereas there were in 1868 no less than 102 inspected schools which wholly failed; there were in 1869 only 45 such failures. Instead of only 1 school coming out in the first class, 6 in the second class, and 89 in the third class, as in 1868; 3 came out in the first class, 20 in the second class, and 173 in the third class in 1869; besides 21 recommended for half-grants, by reason of exceptional circumstances of discouragment under which the schools had laboured during the year. Accordingly, the grants have exceeded those of the year before by about 50 per cent., 2,978*l.* having been granted in 1868, and 4,461*l.* in 1869. This last sum, I am happy to say, exceeded our estimate by 483*l.* Of the larger denominations, the Church of England schools have earned this year 1,709*l.*; the Wesleyan, 804*l.*; the Moravian, 618*l.*; and the Baptist, 590*l.*; all having made great strides in advance. The fees paid by the scholars, of whom there were 20,439 on the books in the inspected elementary schools in the year under report, amounted to no less than 3,106*l.*; a very satisfactory feature. The Inspector speaks in high terms of the progressive and decided improvement which the system of teaching has undergone during the year. In respect of the character of our elementary education, much remains still to be done; but much has been already accomplished. The results of the two last years have been very encouraging.

143. Within the last year or two the sale of school requisites by the Kingston booksellers is reported to have been much greater that at any former time in the history of the Island. And my next year's Report, being for 1870, will afford proof in figures that, from one cause or another, a remarkable impulse has been given to the cause of elementary education of late. I attribute this in great part to the intelligent energy of Mr. Savage, the Head of the Educational Department, and to his single-minded devotion to the work.

144. A system of opening grants, to encourage and aid the formation of new schools, more especially in remote places where schools are much wanted, which has been introduced during the current year, will fall to be described in my next year's Report; as will also a system for increasing, by direct Government action, the number of trained schoolmasters annually to become available.

145. I regret to have to report that the experimental scheme of having Government Model Schoolmasters from England, has failed from personal reasons. Five experienced masters were procured: of these, one only has done his work at all satisfactorily. One ran into debt and absconded; two took to intemperate habits; and one has failed as a schoolmaster in the Colony. This history shows the peculiar difficulties we labour under here.

146. Several further attempts have been made to introduce manual labour into elementary schools; and the grants in aid system is intended to give all possible encouragement to such attempts. Considering the many difficulties to be encountered, the progress made in this direction, if not satisfactory, is not wholly discouraging. The chief difficulties are the objections of parents to the employment of their children upon field work, from feelings arising from associations derived from the old days of slavery; and the difficulty of finding remunerative sale for indoor products of industry. One very praiseworthy and not unsuccessful attempt to establish an Industrial School has been made by the Rev. E. Bassett Key, a stipendiary curate in St. Elizabeth, at whose school a carpenter, a mason, and a cooper are employed to instruct the boys in their respective trades, and whose pupils cultivate a few acres of land. The experiment is hopeful. A Government Industrial School has been establishedat Port Antonio, which I hear is doing well. But this last institution will fall to be described in next year's Report.

147. In regard to the Endowed Schools, and to those Elementary Schools which up to this time have abstained from seeking Government aid, and have not submitted to inspection, I have nothing now to say. I have lately learnt, with sincere pleasure, that one important denomination, whose schools in the main have hitherto stood aloof from all concern with the Government Educational Department, have now resolved in a body to join our system.

148. The whole sum expended from the revenues upon the Department of Education for each of the last five years, is entered in the following table:—

	£
1864–65	3,486
1865–66	3,445
1866–67	3,987
1867–68	4,120
1868–69	6,244

149. The amount expended in the year under report may be thus classified:—

	£
Inspection	938
Grants in aid	3,984
Government Schools	1,322
Total	£6,244

Immigration.

150. Between the years 1863 and 1867 coolie immigration entirely ceased in this Colony. But during the year 1867 four ships arrived with 1,636 immigrants. These coolies, unfortunately, cannot have been very carefully selected, many of them being weakly, and some in extreme bad health, on their arrival.

151. In the year 1868 between three and four hundred were applied for by the planters; but, owing to some mismanagement in India, none were received.

152. The reviving demand for immigrants, and the disappointment caused by this failure, led to the appointment of an Agent in India specially for Jamaica; and in July, 1868, Mr. Wm. M. Anderson, who for some years had been head of the Immigration Department in this Island, and had previously been the Agent in India, was again sent out to Calcutta as the Agent for Jamaica.

153. The advantage of this change of Indian Agents was in the year under report, 1869, very apparent. In this year three ships arrived from Calcutta with the following number of immigrants:—

Males.	Females.	Infants.	Total.
935	394	60	1,389

154. These people were carefully selected in India, and they are admitted to have been the healthiest, strongest, and best coolie labourers ever imported into Jamaica.

155. The number of immigrants under their five years' indenture at the close of the year was as follows:—

	Coolies.	Africans.	Total.
Males	1,762	44	1,806
Females	815	6	821
Total	2,577	50	2,627

156. The number of Indian immigrants who had worked out their five years' indentures, but had not completed their term of ten years' industrial residence, was as follows:—

Males.	Females.	Total.
2,187	943	3,130

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157. Great attention had been bestowed upon this Department in anticipation of the arrival of coolies in the course of the year 1869; and certainly such attention was requisite, for the abuses of the system had become excessive.

158. One of the greatest wants was a proper Asylum for disabled, diseased, and starving coolies, both deserters and others, found wandering about. A place called a Coolie Depôt, in Kingston, had for some time been used nominally for this purpose, but it was in a disgraceful condition. No adequate appropriation of funds had been made for it, and little real care or attention (so far as I could discover when the place first attracted notice) had ever been given to it.

159. This place was closed, and a new depôt was established in January, 1868, in Spanish Town (where the Head Office of the Department is situated), as an asylum for indentured coolies disabled and incapable of labour; a temporary home for deserters, until they can be returned to their employers; and an hospital for sick coolies who have served their term of indenture, but have not completed their industrial residence.

160. A Governnent Medical Officer has charge of this depôt, for which adequate funds are provided, and it is now a creditable establishment. At the close oft he year it contained forty inmates.

161. The Head of the Department here, in his Report for the year, thus describes the improvement of the system:—"During the year there have been many salutary changes "in this Department; indeed the whole system of management of East Indian immi- "grants has undergone a thorough reformation. Hitherto the rights and duties of both "immigrants and employers, as defined by law and the regulations of the service, had "not been carried out with that attention and strictness which was necessary to ensure "the welfare and protection of the immigrant, or the due performance by him of his "duty to his employer. Vagrancy, desertion, and malingering were thus encouraged, "and general dissatisfaction with the result prevailed throughout the Island. Now the "beneficial effects of the new regulations are becoming daily more apparent. Vagrancy "and desertion are almost unknown; there is much less sickness and malingering than "there ever was; the immigrants are earning better wages than they ever did; and one "looks, but looks in vain, for those miserable squalid objects that, eighteen months ago, "infested the streets and roads.

"One of the most important and beneficial changes in the management of coolies has "been the order given by direction of His Excellency the Governor, that no adult coolie "shall receive less than three shillings and sixpence a week, that sum being considered "the lowest amount upon which he can maintain himself in health and in fair working "condition. I am glad to say this order has been most cheerfully responded to by all "employers of immigrants, and I have no doubt they have already felt the benefit of "it in having their people more healthy and in better condition to labour."

162. The above orders, I may explain, apply to the coolies imported before 1869, under the old laws and system. The coolies imported in and after 1869 are treated under a different, and, I trust, improved system, as will be seen on reference to the description given in a preceding head of this Report of Law 34 of 1869.

Savings Banks.

163. One of these banks, the Trelawny Savings Bank, failed in 1867 in a manner very disastrous to the depositors; and another, the St. Mary's Savings Bank, ceased to do business in 1869.

164. Nevertheless, the returns for the year show a continued increase in the amounts deposited; a fact which speaks strongly of the increased prosperity and prudence of the middle and lower classes:—

Year.	Number of Banks.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
			£
1867	9	2,274	54,807
1868	8	2,524	58,913
1869	7	3,004	74,394

165. In the course of the year now current a Government Savings Bank, having a branch at every Parochial Treasury, has been established, to which most, if not all, of the private savings banks will transfer their deposits. This new institution will be described in next year's Report.

Crime.

166. The convictions and imprisonments for felonious offences against the person have decreased this year from 93 in 1868 to 50 in 1869; a very large proportionate decrease. The convictions and imprisonments for offences against property have increased in about an equal number, but in a much less proportion, from 1,176 in 1868 to 1,268 in 1869. The result in respect of misdemeanours is similar; these against the person in 1868 being 428, in 1869 being 333; and against property in 1868 being 623, in 1869 being 701. In both years what are classed as miscellaneous misdemeanours were about the same in number. In respect to cases of murder and manslaughter, the returns show no variation worthy of mention. The cases of arson were the same in number, 15, for both years. The assessed value of the property thus destroyed in 1869 was 995*l.* Only four convictions were obtained for this offence, though in many of the other cases circumstantial evidence of some weight was procured. One of the cases of arson was the burning of a Baptist chapel, believed to have been done by a little boy who had been whipped by his schoolmaster. These cases are generally perpetrated at night by single persons, without accomplices, which makes their proof difficult. Highway robberies are of extremely rare occurrence, though opportunities are not wanting, as large sums of money for payment of wages are habitually conveyed from the towns to the estates by little boys. The convictions for theft of growing crops and dye-woods for the last three years were as follows:—726 in 1867, 573 in 1868, and 576 in 1869. The decrease during the last two years is considerable. The theft of small stock is the only crime which is reported as being really on the increase. In 1868 the apprehensions on charges for this offence were only 31; but in 1869 they were 193. The police find great difficulty in inducing people to give immediate information of losses of this description.

167. Here, as elsewhere, all the most important offences against property are committed by habitual criminals. The Habitual Criminals Law passed in the year now current, taken from the English Act, may tend to reduce in some slight degree the depredations of this class of persons. But here, as elsewhere, the punishment of a habitual thief seems to have no good effect, except in so far as it puts it out of his power to exercise his business for a certain time.

168. The Penal Law in this class of cases may induce caution in thieving; but the evidence shows that it does not correct the habitual thief. There are ten prisoners in the Penitentiary who have been convicted ten times, and more. There were one hundred prisoners there in the year under report who had been convicted three times and more; and the whole number of prisoners in the Penitentiary was but 453. It is true that a certain number of these habitual thieves are imprisoned annually; but it is also true that an equal, or nearly equal number are released annually who are in no way, certainly in no good way, changed by their punishment. There is so little crime of this sort in Jamaica (as is shown by the little care taken, even in Kingston, to secure property in houses and stores at night), that there is no place where an experiment in the direction I would indicate could be tried more easily than in this Colony.

Trade.

169. The value of imports for each of the last four years is stated below:—

1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.
£	£	£	£
1,030,796	859,186	1,034,566	1,224,414

Showing a satisfactory increase in each of the last two years, and in the last year more than a complete recovery from the collapse of 1867.

170. In comparing the imports of former years with the imports of 1868 and 1869, it will be fair to exclude the value of the railway materials imported in these last years, amounting to 11,587*l.* in 1868, and to 10,353*l.* in 1869, as these importations were quite exceptional. The figures will then stand thus:—

1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.
£	£	£	£
1,030,796	859,186	1,012,979	1,214,061

171. An alteration in the tariff came into effect on the 1st April, 1867, whereby steam-engines and machinery generally, stills, pipes, boiling pans, ploughs, wire fencing,

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galvanized iron, staves, and several other things requisite for the works of a plantation, with a few other articles, which had formerly been charged with an ad valorem duty of four per cent., were admitted free. The importations in value of these articles were increased in 1867 over those of 1866 by 1,858*l.*, although the gross value of all importations was in 1867 less by 171,610*l.* than in the year preceding. And in comparison with the same year 1866, the value of the importations of these same articles was more in 1868 by 13,422*l.*, and in 1869 by 13,458*l.*

172. This increase in this particular class of articles (which is exclusive of the railway materials imported) seems to demonstrate that a new impetus has been given to the investment of capital on the part of the planting interest, in these last years; which is a very satisfactory conclusion. In the following table the actual value of the imports of this class in the several years referred to is shown. The figures against the items iron, mills, sugar pans, pipes, ploughs, stills, and steam-engines, have particular significance:—

	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.
	£	£	£	£
Bricks	448	443	1,419	1,003
Hydraulic and Printing Presses	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Iron Galvanized	464	1,238	1,985	1,902
Ditto other Manufactures	638	3,186	2,041	1,215
Marble Slabs	—	24	74	—
Machines, Horse Power	5,186	6,879	8,023	6,644
Mills	1,722	1,072	1,882	3,822
Pans for Boiling Sugar	1,427	603	984	2,409
Pipes for Fluids	28	225	1,090	760
Ploughs	69	111	482	499
Pumps, &c.	159	149	241	—
Railway Wheels	—	—	11,587	10,353
Rum Vats	—	—	136	—
Shooks of all sorts	23,580	18,021	18,981	16,404
Stills	211	559	1,174	2,977
Steam-Engines	—	101	3,046	6,904
Tiles	135	24	—	20
Wood Hoops	2,346	1,225	2,773	2,264
„ Staves	1,241	5,587	6,418	3,847
Wire Fencing, &c.	40	107	367	482
	37,694	39,552	62,703	61,505
Deducting Railway Materials	-	-	11,587	10,353
			51,116	51,152

173. The value of the exports for the last four calendar years was as shown below:—

1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.
£	£	£	£
1,030,796	1,045,094	1,158,804	1,162,769

The exports, in quantity, of the principal staples for the last four years were as shown in the following table:—

Exports.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.
Sugar - cwt.	600,836	515,901	637,478	491,616
Rum - galls.	1,765,775	1,728,832	1,927,977	1,463,471
Coffee - lbs.	8,413,532	6,264,861	7,758,985	5,025,812
Pimento - „	4,866,239	7,595,800	4,373,259	6,575,249
Dye-woods - tons	36,570	48,481	49,129	118,678
Ginger - lbs.	1,550,166	1,728,075	2,036,921	1,261,873
Arrowroot - „	70,204	44,566	27,346	11,731

174. As anticipated in my last year's Report, the falling off in the principal crops in 1869 has been large. But nevertheless, owing mainly to the great increase in the export of logwood in consequence of the disturbances in Hayti, the gross value of all exports was even more than that of the year before, when the crops were remarkably good.

175. The actual increase in the value of logwood exported in 1869 over 1868 is 166,087*l.* This is a considerable sum; and it must have been a great windfall to the proprietors of wood lands, and a great stimulus to industry in connection with this particular trade. But even if the whole sum had been spent in dutiable imports (an impossible and absurd supposition), it would not have given an increased revenue approaching the vast increase exhibited in a preceding head of this Report. This consideration shows the value of the arguments of that strange Colonial school which, imagining it to be for its interest to scare English capital, maintains that every existing sign of improvement is due to the exceptional expansion of this one trade, consequent on the accidental misfortunes of a neighbouring island.

176. The truth is that our trade has recovered from the depression which was the inevitable consequence of a preceding unhealthy condition, and was never in a sounder state than at present.

Statistics.

177. The organization of the efficient Revenue Department, described in my Report for 1868, has enabled the Government to obtain some statistical information, which, though still imperfect, is to a great extent reliable.

178. The area of the Island is about 2,720,000 acres; of these 492,246 acres are ascertained to be cultivated, leaving 2,227,754 acres set down as uncultivated.

179. Of the uncultivated land, quit-rent was paid on 1,138,205 acres; leaving upwards of a million of acres, including unpatented lands as well as abandoned properties, on which quit-rent has not been collected.

180. The cultivation, so far as it has been as yet ascertained and booked, consists of

	Acres.
Sugar cane	47,440
Ground provisions and garden vegetables	39,224½
Coffee	16,617
Pimento	5,851½
Corn	760
Ginger	150¼
Cocoa	91¾
Arrowroot	65¼
Tobacco	45½
Cotton	3
Guinea grass	110,705½
Natural pasture	222,790¾
Natural pasture and pimento	48,501½
Total	492,246½

181. Thus it may be roughly calculated that every acre of our reclaimed land supports one inhabitant, and sends home two guineas' worth of exports, receiving back an equal value in imports, besides paying its share of the heavy debt bequeathed to it.

182. The live stock in the Island amounts to—horses, mules, and asses, 74,157; horned cattle, 121,643; sheep, 21,761.

183. On these the old tax on stock (since repealed) was paid. Some animals of all kinds must have escaped taxation. Swine, goats, and other small stock have never been taxed, and there are no means of ascertaining the numbers of each. The number of swine is very large, pork forming the favourite animal food of the negro.

184. The usual and very constant price of beef, pork, fish, and turtle is from 4½*d.* to 6*d.* a pound; and that of mutton from 9*d.* to 1*s.* Mutton is consumed exclusively by the wealthy classes. Butcher's meat is, on the whole, very good in Jamaica—for a tropical island remarkably so.

185. The general price of Indian corn is from 5*s.* to 7*s.* a bushel; but from some parts of the Island, at its season, it might be exported at half that price. The price of yams, which form the main article of the food of the labouring classes, may be taken over the greater part of the Island at from 6*s.* to 7*s.* per 100 lbs.; but in some places it is less. A working-man will consume about four pounds of these in a day; and with this and about four ounces of salt fish, a strong man will consider himself well fed. One shilling a day may be taken as the minimum rate of a labouring man's wages.

186. In July, 1861, there were 63,302 houses paying poor-rate; of this number 4,480 were valued at a rental of 12*l.* a year and upwards.

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Legislative Council.

187. In consequence of the abolition of the offices of Financial Secretary and of Collector of Customs of Jamaica as formerly existing, an order of Her Majesty in Council, dated 11th November, 1869, has been issued, which abolishes the *ex-officio* seat originally attached to those two offices. It also abolishes the *ex-officio* seat of the Director of Roads, and empowers Her Majesty to appoint any three officers to complete the number (six) of official members. As this opens a wide field for selection, it is a decided improvement in the Constitution of the Colony. The Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the officer commanding the troops, have still seats *ex officio*.

188. Under this order, Colonel Mann (who is the Director of Roads) has been personally re-appointed an official member; and Mr. Straton (who is the Auditor-General) has been now first appointed an official member, leaving at the close of the year one official seat still vacant.

189. Mr. Samuel Rennalls was appointed, in the course of the year, an unofficial member, making the number of unofficial members four.

Public Health.

190. The general health of this Island, on the whole, was in 1869 very good.

191. Owing to the prevalence of cholera at and immediately around St. Jago, in the adjacent island of Cuba, a rigid quarantine was enforced against vessels coming hither from that port, from February to May; and it is believed that at one time the extension to this Island of this disease, which is peculiarly fatal to the black population, was arrested by this measure, through the operation of the lazaretto established at the Apostle's Battery. A case of a choleraic nature occurred amongst some passengers who were then undergoing in the lazaretto quarantine of observation.

192. During this year a Quarantine Board, with extensive powers, was appointed under Law 37 of 1869.

General Remarks.

193. The principal event of the year was the opening of a railway from Spanish Town to Old Harbour, a distance of 11 miles. This line is an extension of the Jamaica Railway from Kingston to Spanish Town, which was opened in 1845.

194 The whole length of this railway is now about 23 miles.

195. The traffic on this short line in 1869 is returned as follows:—

Passengers - - - - -	109,793
Horses - - - - -	389
Carriages - - - - -	178
Cattle - - - - -	469
Sheep - - - - -	231
Bundles of 28 lbs. guinea-grass - -	319,962
Bundles of 12 lbs. wood - - -	302,255
Tons merchandize - - -	18,277

196. The tranquillity of the Colony remained uninterrupted. A quarrel occurred between the employés of the new railway and some of the peasantry at Old Harbour Market which created a slight riot, but it was promptly suppressed by the constabulary. It was feared on one occasion that there might be a resistance on the part of some squatters to the officers of the Kingston District Court, who were about to execute a writ to dispossess them. A party of the constabulary accompanied the officers of the Court; but there was no attempt at resistance, and the writs were quietly executed.

J. P. GRANT.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

No. 2.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Cairns to the Officer Administering the Government of Jamaica.

(No. 127.)

Sir, Government House, Belize, August 20, 1870.

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1869.

My arrival in British Honduras was of a date subsequent to that of the accompanying returns.

REPORT ON THE BRITISH HONDURAS BLUE BOOK FOR 1869.

Taxes, Duties, Fees.

The taxes and duties from which the revenue of the Colony was raised were as follows:—

1. One per centum ad valorem upon all goods, wares, and merchandize imported.
2. 2*s.* per Imperial gallon on wines, spirits, and cordials.
3. 2*s.* per ton, tonnage dues upon all vessels (other than coasters) inwards. The foregoing duties were levied to defray the expenses on account of the salaries of the Lieut.-Governor, the Chief Justice, Colonial Secretary, Treasurer, Attorney-General, Police Magistrate of Belize, Chaplain of St. John's Church, and Incumbent of St. Mary's Church (both in Belize), and of the Minister of the Presbyterian Church; but any balance of collections over the expenditure specially contemplated by the Act imposing these charges might be appropriated to general purposes.
4. One per centum ad valorem upon all goods, wares, and merchandize imported. This duty was imposed for the special and exclusive purpose of enabling the Colony to meet its liabilities in connection with the South of Belize Loan—a loan which was raised under an Act of 1863, having for its object the improvement of the south side of the town, after its destruction by fire, on the 10th day of March, 1863.
5. A land and property tax of five cents on every dollar of the annual rent or annual value of town lands, if such rent or value amounted to $35 or upwards; on country lots, for mahogany or logwood cutting purposes, $40 for every lot of the extent of three miles' base; on plantation grounds of less extent than 10 acres, $1 each; on all lands on the kayes, $1 per square mile or under; on houses and buildings on the kayes, five cents on every dollar of annual rent or value, if such rent or value amounted to $35 or upwards. The revenue derived from the land tax was applied to the repayment of certain Treasury bills, and this first charge satisfied, any surplus might be added to the general revenue.
6. The duties, dues, and taxes collected under the previous Tariff Act and under the Tariff Act of 1869 from 1st August last, including import and Excise duties, a tax on horses and mules if for use in Belize, a tax on dogs in Belize and Corosal, light dues, hospital dues, a duty on licences to sell liquors, a duty on licences to trade (applicable to masters of vessels and seamen, &c.), transshipment dues, wharfage dues, a storage duty on gunpowder, a storage duty on Customs warehouse packages, cranage dues, and upon all imported articles not specially rated or exempted, an ad valorem duty of 8 per centum (during the first seven months of the past year), and of 4 per centum (from the 1st of August).
7. Certain fees of office paid into general revenue, as enumerated below:—

Clerk of Courts and Keeper of Records.
Churches (surplice fees).
Colonial Secretary.
Magistrates.
Market (including slaughter-house charges).
Police Court.
Provost Marshal.
Wharfage.

The several amounts of these fees, and the arrangement for their disposal had previously been established by law.

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8. The receipts on accounts of fines and confiscations, and of the rent of the market stalls, made up, with a few other items, the sources from which the revenue, whether for general or special purposes, was derived.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for 1869 was less by 5,786*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* than that of the previous year, the decrease being mainly attributable to reduced taxation and a falling off in the transit trade.

By the local Act of 32 and 33 Vict., cap. 10, which came into operation on the 1st day of August last, the ad valorem duty on imports, in the case of all articles not specially taxed or exempted from taxation—unrated articles—was reduced from 8 per centum (with a drawback of 3 per centum on re-exportation) to 4 per centum (without any drawback). This reduction did not affect the duties (1, 2, 3, 4) above referred to, which were imposed by Acts 16 Vict., cap. 4, and 27 Vict., cap. 11, and are necessarily fixed and permanent so long as those Acts shall continue in force.

It should be added that by the Act of last year a tax which was mainly felt by the poorer classes as being levied upon their cattle and pigs, and upon the live turtle which they are in the habit of bringing to market, was wholly repealed. Vexatious enough in its operation, its annual return to the Treasury was under one hundred pounds. Concurrently with decreased collections, the expenditure fell to 30,403*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*, being less by 9,316*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* than that of 1868.

The excess of revenue over expenditure was therefore well maintained, amounting to 6,226*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*

The absence of any claims upon the Treasury on account of arrears of salaries, the reduction of the strength of the Municipal Police Force, a considerably reduced mail subsidy, the suspension of the Belize Volunteers Act (and consequent cessation of payments under that head), a similar cessation of payments on account of the militia, the disappearance of the epidemic of cholera and of the necessity for any expenditure such as had attended the visitation of the previous year, and the transfer of the payment of interest upon certain loans, from the general revenue to a special fund and to taxes specially raised, will suffice to explain the more important savings effected in the expenditure during 1869, as shown in the comparative yearly statement; but it is further to be noted that various departments of the public service were worked at a less cost than in 1868; that, for instance, the gaols and hospital expenditure was less by 555*l.* 17*s.* 0½*d.*, that the affairs of the poor-house were more economically administered, and that the Colony had its lunatics tended, the lighting of its cays* provided, its taxes collected, and its public printing undertaken upon decidedly more favourable terms. The vigilant and judicious control thus exercised enabled the Government to face the liabilities of the coming year and the prospect of a failing revenue with less of apprehension than must otherwise have been felt, and at least to postpone the consideration of the necessity for a reimposition of burdens on the landowners and traders.

It did not, however, feel justified in proceeding with the execution of any works, whether new buildings or of the nature of road extension, which could safely be deferred, and no costly structure was attempted, such as the Manger Cay Lighthouse, built in 1868.

The comparative decrease in the expenditure upon works and buildings, including road works, was 1,759*l.* 2*s.* 0½*d.*

I shall have completed this survey when I state that the annual grant for educational purposes was reduced by a vote of the House to 1,000*l.* from 1,200*l.*, and that no more than 1,000*l.* of the 7,945*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* due to the War Department, on account of extraordinary militia expenses incurred in 1867–8, were repaid in 1869.

The following comparative statement shows the totals of the Colonial revenue and expenditure during each of the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1865	26,529	15	9	35,614	2	10
1866	27,333	14	0	31,094	4	6
1867	32,360	5	6	30,506	17	4
1868	42,416	4	6	39,720	8	7
1869	36,629	16	5	30,403	12	10

* Or kayes.

Public Debt.

At the close of the year, the balance against the Colony on each debt stood at:—

1. 15,817*l.* 4*s.* on South of Belize Improvement Loan.
2. 16,550*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* on Immigration Loan.
3. 1,943*l.* on debt to General Post Office.
4. 6,945*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* on debt due to War Department.
5. 1,753*l.* 1*s.* on issue of Treasury bills. The history of these debts is briefly as follows:—

SOUTH OF BELIZE IMPROVEMENT LOAN.

Upon the destruction by fire of a portion of the south side of the town, advantage was taken of the opportunity to widen and ventilate the streets, and to prohibit the use of inflammable materials for roofing purposes within certain limits. An Act was therefore passed, enabling the Government to raise a loan of $100,000, to defray such charges as might require to be incurred, of the nature of compensation to the owners of lands, or of premises taken up by the Town Improvement Commission, or of expenditure upon the improvements themselves. The money thus borrowed, which amounted originally to $99,000, with interest at 6 per centum, was made repayable in equal portions at five periods, by means of transferable debentures. This was in 1863; but four years later it was found expedient to legalize the renewal of the debentures for any period not less than three years, and not exceeding the limit of date of the year 1880. The debentures thus reissued represented the sum of $8,986, which being added to the original loan, raised the total amount to $107,986. Deducting the debentures which had been redeemed at the close of last year, amounting to $28,900, there remained a debt of $79,086, with a sinking fund of $4,608·14 for its ultimate extinction, and with an import tax of 1 per centum in sustentation of that fund.

IMMIGRATION LOAN.

This 6 per centum loan was raised under an Act of 1864, and stands at the full amount of the sums borrowed between that date and 1867, namely, $82,751·56. The sinking fund which is formed from periodical repayments of the cost of the introduction of Chinese immigrants—one-third by the Colony and two-thirds by the employers—amounted at the end of the year to $18,064·34. When the fifth and last instalment shall have been paid, the fund will be at credit $35,430·55, but there will be a deficiency of $47,321·01 *plus* the interest thereon, to be made up, if possible, from the general revenue,—which happens, indeed, to be its debtor, under certain exceptiona circumstances of a date considerably anterior to that of my report.

DEBT TO THE GENERAL POST OFFICE.

This debt was incurred in 1864, and has been reduced by annual instalments from 4,443*l.* to 1,943*l.* at the end of 1869,—its reduction being at the rate of 1,000*l.* per annum, and being effected from the payment of the half share of the cost of the postal service between Honduras and New Orleans as undertaken by the Imperial Government, which deducts by arrangement 1,000*l.* per annum from the promised moiety until the above liability to the Post Office shall have been discharged.

DEBT TO THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

This debt has been charged to the Colony on account of what is termed the extraordinary military expenditure of the years 1867 and 1868, in connection with frontier disturbances and outpost garrisons. There was paid during the year a sum of 1,000*l.* in reduction of the debt, which stood at 6,945*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* when the year closed.

TREASURY BILLS.

These bills of credit, which were issued in 1867 and 1868, to enable the Treasury Department to meet its engagements, were made payable not later than two years from their issue, with interest at 6 per centum per annum. The sum of $25,000 was raised under the Act, and $16,234·25 had been repaid on the 31st of December. The whole of the notes have since been redeemed.

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The total of the public debt for the year ended 31st December, 1869, was 43,008*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*, as compared with 50,165*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.** on the same day in 1868, and the total amount in the sinking fund was 6,286*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* as compared with 7,060*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* in the previous year.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY THE COLONY ON ACCOUNT OF ITS MILITARY DEFENCE.

Besides the 1,000*l.* paid during the year to the War Department, in reduction of the Colonial debt, the Frontier Police Force cost 1,705*l.* 2*s.* 11½*d.* Its duties were, as they were intended to be, confined to observing, and so far as was consistent with their numbers, never exceeding 18 men, protecting the north-western frontier. The operation of the Militia Act having been suspended in the previous year, and of the Volunteer Corps Act in the year under report, the expenditure upon the former force was reduced from 670*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* in 1868 to 102*l.* 5*s.* 11½*d.*, and upon the Volunteer Force from 209*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* to 95*l.* 3*s.* These small amounts include the Quartermaster's pay in the one case, and the Armourer Serjeant's in the other, with charges for cleaning and preserving arms and stores in both.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY GREAT BRITAIN FOR THE MILITARY PROTECTION OF THE COLONY.

This amounted to 13,425*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*, as shown by the Controller's return, and included an expenditure of 711*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*, under the head of "Movement of Troops,"—one company of the 4th West India Regiment having been moved, prior to disbandment, to Jamaica, and having been replaced from that island by another company (of the 1st and 3rd West India Regiments).

Public Works.

No public works of magnitude were undertaken or completed in the past year; but some urgent and unavoidable repairs were executed, and progress was made with the improvement of several of the country roads, and with collecting materials for the masonry of the wall of the gaol yard. The reason of the delay in having this very important work completed was, as it still remains, the difficulty and expense of obtaining stone and lime. The samples of the latter material which were sent in by intending contractors for its supply from certain parts of the Colony, were pronounced to be so inferior as to necessitate their rejection, and it is now brought from England in casks.

When vessels arrive at Belize with stone ballast, the Colonial Secretary is generally able to obtain it for only the landing charges. It is not to be forgotten that the absence of road communications throughout the country prevents the removal of stone, except at an exorbitant cost, to any distance from where it is found. The Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, and Poor House require to be wholly rebuilt, and some very heavy repairs must be applied to the Court House before long. The whole of that building is as inconvenient and unsuitable as possible for the purposes to which it is applied. The Colonial Secretary has his office on a portion of the ground floor, the Treasurer is partitioned off from him by a screen, and the Central Police Station and the Postmaster's Office are also below the Court-room itself. The accommodation in every case is inadequate, the fittings are defective, the floors damp, and the heat stifling.

Legislation.

The Acts passed in 1869 do not appear to call for separate notice here. Of the proclamations issued, the most important was that of the 13th November, by which the Legislative Assembly was dissolved. The Assembly would have completed the full term of its constitutional existence in the following month.

Political Franchise.

Any person claiming the right to vote at the election of a Member of the Legislative Assembly must be of the full age of 21 years, and be a natural-born British subject, or else naturalized by law. There is a property qualification requiring the possession of real property of the annual value of at least 7*l.*; or he must be, at the time of making the claim to be placed on the Register, and have been for six months previously,

* Erroneously written 3*s.* in Blue Book for 1868.

the occupant of a house or of land of the annual rental of 7*l.*; or, finally, the elector must, on the same conditions as to time, present and past, be and have been in receipt of an annual salary of at least 100*l.*

I do not find that women can in any case claim the right to vote.

The Colony has not yet been divided for electorial purposes, the inhabitants of the country divisions being principally Yucatecan refugees, small creole proprietors, and Indian labourers; the first not having been naturalized, and the others possessing no property qualification, and not, I may add, that degree of intelligence which would justly entitle them to claim the suffrage. The electors, therefore, are the citizens of Belize.

The house consists of 21 members, of whom 18 are elected, and 3 appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor. The names of 85 persons were entered on the roll of electors at the late general election (held between the 20th and 24th days of December last), of whom 51 recorded their votes. The ordinary duration of the Session is about four months, and the legal duration of the Assembly itself is limited to four years.

Of late years it has frequently been difficult to obtain the attendance of a quorum of members for the transaction of public business.

Councils and Assemblies.

The changes in the Executive Council have been three:—

Lieutenant Langford, 4th West India Regiment, as the officer commanding the troops, succeeded Captain Edmunds of the same corps on his departure for Europe, and was himself succeeded by Major McAuley, of the 1st West India Regiment, who is at present the senior Member of Council, and Mr. Toledo, who, on the reconstruction of the Council, in regard to its unofficial Members, consequent upon the general election, was appointed to a seat therein in the room of Mr. McDonald, a partner in the same firm. In the Assembly the Colonial Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Attorney-General were nominated to represent the Government policy, to support its proposals, and to give expression to its views. Two of the elected Members happen to be Members of Council, and two others, although duly elected, had not taken their seats when the House was prorogued in May of the present year.

Civil Establishment.

The changes were as follows:—Dr. Gatmé to be Public Medical Officer in Belize, *vice* Hunter, on leave; Dr. Foster to take Dr. Gatmé's place in the Northern district; Mr. R. Hume to be Clerk to the Clerk of Courts, *vice* Liddal, deceased; Mr. H. C. Usher to be Provost Marshal, *vice* Howell; Mr. G. H. Schürer to be Treasury Clerk, *vice* Usher, promoted; the Rev. J. Smith to be Presbyterian Minister, *vice* Arthur, on leave; Chief Justice Corner to resume his duties, on the expiration of his leave of absence, *vice* Walcott (Mr. Walcott returning to Jamaica); and Mr. T. W. H. Dillet to be Clerk of Courts, *vice* Pine, resigned.

Consular Changes.

Mr. V. H. McDonald was recognized as Consul for Denmark, and Mr. A. Morrice as Acting-Consul for the Republic of Spanish Honduras during the absence of Mr. J. E. Mutrie. On the return of this last-named gentleman, he himself was nominated Acting-Consul for Guatemala during Mr. Binney's absence.

Population, Immigration, &c.

The return to the last census (1861) gave a total of 25,635 persons then present in the Colony. Since that date a few Americans have settled in the country parts, and a considerable number of Yucatecan refugees have crossed into our territory and established themselves in the Northern district. On the other hand the cholera and yellow fever of 1868 and 1869, and the railway works at Puerto Caballos have diminished, or diverted, that natural increase which, in a not unfavourable climate, a settled community, and one giving satisfactory evidence of improved social habits and moral tendencies among the labouring classes, might reasonably be looked for.

The number of depositors in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st December was 95, being an increase of 18 upon the number in the previous year.

The inmates of the Poor House on the 31st December numbered 17, against 16 in 1868,

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and there were 45 persons in receipt of out-door relief, against 43 at the close of that year. In British Honduras no able-bodied man or woman need ever be out of work.

Imports and Exports.

The following tabular statement shows the comparative value of the trading relations of the Colony with other parts of the world in the years 1868 and 1869:—

Countries.	1868.		1869.	
	Imports therefrom.	Exports thereto.	Imports therefrom.	Exports thereto.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	105,099 18 6	115,481 12 0	95,737 2 8½	91,788 8 0
British Colonies:				
Bahamas	86 16 4	Nil.	51 19 3½	Nil.
Foreign Countries:				
Brazil	14 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Cuba	7 4 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
France	87 16 0	4,873 8 0	Nil.	9,983 0 0
Guatemala	2,293 8 4	16,829 4 0	3,090 2 5	14,001 16 0
Holland	Nil.	2,000 0 0	Nil.	Nil.
Honduras (Republic)	5,293 0 8	34,229 4 6	3,702 18 5	37,752 8 0
Mexico	2,259 12 0	6,000 0 0	2,271 11 5½	3,221 0 0
Nicaragua	3 8 0	3,780 0 0	32 8 0	1,120 0 0
Norway	255 1 8	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
North Germany	Nil.	380 0 0	Nil.	Nil.
St. Thomas (West Indies)	37 0 0	Nil.	45 4 0	Nil.
United States	62,246 8 6	20,085 12 0	46,257 9 8½	17,166 8 0
Totals £	177,683 14 0	203,659 0 6	151,188 16 0	175,033 0 0

The total value of the imports of 1869 was 151,188*l.* 16*s.*, and of exports 175,033*l.* The value of both imports and exports was therefore lower than in any of the preceding 14 years; the figures for which years may be found in the 'Colonial Office List' for 1870. The money value of the imports of 1869 was less by 26,494*l.* 18*s.* than that of 1868, and of the exports, it was less by 28,626*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

In 1868 the imports from the United Kingdom were valued at 105,099*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*, while in 1869 they only reached the sum of 95,737*l.* 2*s.* 8½*d.*, showing a diminution in value of 9,362*l.* 15*s.* 9½*d.* The falling off in the exports thereto was still more marked, the earlier year giving a total of 115,481*l.* 12*s.*, and the year under report of 91,788*l.* 8*s.*, the difference against 1869 being 23,693*l.* 4*s.* 3,000*l.*

Our trade with the United States fell off about 16,000*l.* in imports, and nearly in exports.

The imports from Mexico and Guatemala exhibited a slight increase, but there was a decrease of nearly double its amount in the imports from the Republic of Honduras.

The export trade showed a falling off of 2,800*l.*, in the exports to Mexico, of 1,200*l.* in the exports to Guatemala, and of over 2,000*l.* in the exports to Nicaragua. To Spanish Honduras the exports were valued at 37,752*l.* 8*s.*, being over 3,000*l.* in excess of those of 1868, and to France there was an increased export trade to the value of 5,100*l.*, in round numbers; the figures for 1868 being 4,873*l.* 8*s.*, and for 1869, 9,983*l.*

There is a blank return of imports from Norway and of exports to Holland in 1869, the former amounting in value to 255*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* in 1868, and the latter to 2,000*l.*

In reviewing the quantities of the various articles imported, it may be stated, generally, that 1,954 cattle were imported from the neighbouring Republics (Spanish Honduras, Mexico, and Guatemala) in 1868, but only 1,150 in last year; that 479,940 cigars (chiefly from the same Republics) were entered as imports in 1868, and 242,250 in 1869; that the imports of cocoa (chiefly from England and the United States) rose in 1869 to 18,054 lbs. from 6,200 lbs. in 1868; that coffee (chiefly from Guatemala) rose to 84,006*l.* in 1869 from 21,197*l.*; that there was a slight increase in the number of horses and mules imported, 199, as compared with 172 (all brought from the central Republics); that the quantity of lumber (chiefly imported from the United States) fell off from 814,129 feet to 611,144 feet; and that the imports of malt liquors and spirits together fell off about one-half. Sugar, that is loaf and refined sugar, was imported from England and the United States to the amount of 38,802 lbs. in 1869, as contrasted with 28,797 lbs. in 1868. Tea (from the same markets) was entered at 4,912 lbs. in 1868, and at 4,149 lbs. in 1869. Tobacco, which is all but exclusively the produce of

the United States, was imported in 1869 to the amount of 41,223 lbs., and in the previous year the quantity was returned at 47,911 lbs. The importation of wines (chiefly from England) fell off in last year to 3,343 gallons from 5,818 gallons in 1868.

To understand these figures, and to account for omissions from this cursory review, it should be borne in mind that with the exception of the articles enumerated above, the quantities of the various imports cannot be correctly given, the law merely requiring the importers to make a return of the gross value of the shipment, upon which an ad valorem duty is paid.

Of the exports, 752 tons 12 cwt. 2 qrs. 6 lbs. of sugar were shipped in last year, or about 10 tons less than in 1868. It is true that some sugar of the crop of 1869 was awaiting shipment when the year closed, and that the Excise duty paid upon Honduras grown sugar in 1869 shows a slightly increased local consumption; but even with these explanations, the figures do not exhibit satisfactory progress in the cultivation of what is so generally accepted as the future staple product of the Colony. Of the 752 tons of sugar exported, the United Kingdom took 718, and Spanish Honduras, the United States, Nicaragua, and Guatemala the remainder. The export of mahogany amounted to 3,498,391 feet, as compared with 3,006,619 feet in the previous year; but of this quantity, Holland and the United States, both of them customers in 1868, took none, England and France sharing the whole, in the proportion of 3,109,668 and 388,723 feet.

The logwood exported fell from 9,270 tons 15 cwt. in 1868, to 7,918 tons 12 cwt., but was nearly double the quantity shipped in 1867.

Cocoa-nuts were less in demand, only 170,078 nuts having been exported, as against 306,262 in 1868.

37,869 feet of cedar were taken by England and the United States, both countries having taken 88,958 feet in 1868.

Of fustic but 66 tons were exported in 1869, against 145 tons in the previous year.

On the other hand, the exports of rum and molasses showed an increase; the figures being 4,766 gallons of rum and 10,417½ gallons of molasses, against 3,300 gallons and 9,664 gallons exported in 1868.

There is evidence of an increasing export trade with the neighbouring Republics; the railway works in Spanish Honduras assisting, no doubt, to enlarge the demand for sundry articles of local produce.

The value of the various productions of the Colony exported in 1868 and 1869 was as follows, and I submit that there is some encouragement in the comparative figures adduced:—

Colonial produce exported.	1868.			1869.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Mahogany	28,187	1	0¾	36,441	11	5½
Logwood	27,812	5	0	25,735	9	0
Sugar	9,908	5	6	10,536	11	4
Rum	247	10	0	357	9	0
Molasses	302	0	0	303	16	10½
Cedar	741	6	4	315	11	6
Fustic	408	2	0	132	3	0
Cocoa-nuts	735	0	6¾	425	3	10¾
Turtle	52	16	0	120	8	0
Totals	£68,394	6	5½	£74,368	4	0¾

Note.—The estimated comparative values, *locally*, of these articles differ from year to year: thus, mahogany, which in 1868 was valued at 2¼*d.* per foot, had risen to 2½*d.* in 1869; logwood, valued at 3*l.* in 1868, rose to 3*l.* 5*s.* in last year; and in the same way sugar was locally valued at 14*l.* per ton instead of 13*l.* in 1868.

These values, however, are not founded upon any local transactions in colonial produce, but only upon a calculation of what would be demanded for the several articles were any offer made on the spot.

Of the exports *not* the produce of British Honduras, and which, although originally imported from the United Kingdom for consumption in the Colony, were subsequently exported to the adjoining States, or which were produced in those countries and then brought to Belize for further export, the value was as nearly as possible 100,664*l.* 15*s.* 11¼*d.*, showing a falling off of 33,800*l.* 13*s.* 9¾*d.* as compared with the return of 1868.

The value of merchandize shipped from the United Kingdom to Belize—but of which,

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as being intended for transhipment to the surrounding countries, the packages are not broken on arrival here—cannot be even approximately given, the very nature of their contents being often unknown, and neither the value nor the quantity having ever been included in the export return.

Shipping.

Belize is at present the only trading port of any consequence in the Colony. There arrived off Belize during 1869, 243 British vessels, of which 195 had cargoes, and 48 were in ballast; and 81 foreign vessels, of which 56 had cargoes and 25 were in ballast; making a total of arrivals of 324 vessels, with a tonnage of 27,792 tons, and with crews numbering 1,508 hands. The nationalities represented by the foreign vessels were those of the United States, France, Holland, Norway, Germany, Mexico, and Honduras (Republican); the vessels of the neighbouring Republics being schooners and other small craft known as "coasters." Of this shipping, 259 vessels cleared with cargoes, and 74 in ballast. Compared with the previous year, there were 10 fewer arrivals at the port, but 8 more vessels obtained cargoes than in 1868.

Agriculture.

The statistics of the agriculture of British Honduras are at the best very imperfect, and for two reasons: the one, because the acreage of the estates or plantations cannot be accurately given; and the other, because there exists an inexplicable reluctance on the part of the proprietors to bring their agricultural operations under annual review in an official Report.

The Colony is for convenience of reference subdivided into five nominal districts; the Northern, of which the chief town is Corozal; the North-western, its chief town, if town it can be called, Orange Walk; the Central, or the Belize district; the Southern, its chief town (a mere hamlet), all pines; and the South-western (inland) district, which has no towns, and so far as is known, no inhabitants. Of these districts the Northern, North-western, and Southern are those in which sugar cultivation has been established and is making progress, while the Central is the rendezvous of the Colonial trade. In the Northern and North-western districts there were eight cane mills worked by steam, besides smaller cattle mills and 34 distilleries; in the Southern, four steam mills (with four concretors).

The Belize division, extending inland to the Western frontier, is dotted with small plantations in which common garden produce is raised, and possesses many cattle-runs, where horned cattle and sheep abound; but of which, as a pastoral and cultivated district, it would be the merest guess-work to attempt to prepare a correct return of the live-stock and crops raised on its wide-spreading lands, and in the numerous *milpas* of its river borders.

The estate of Regalia in the Southern district changed hands during the year, and the new proprietors have erected a second concretor, with the prospect before them of doubling the acreage in cane; estimated at 250 acres in 1868. A second concretor has been added at Seven Hills, and the Honduras Company have placed one upon the estate of Indian Church.

Much Indian corn is grown in the Northern district, and india-rubber and other natural products are beginning, however tardily, to attract attention. That various fibres might be profitably cultivated here, that the sarsaparilla and cochineal, the tobacco and indigo, the copaiba and ipecacuanha, and many valuable indigenous woods which remunerate the cultivator in the adjoining Republics, might be turned to account by our own people, there is no reason to doubt, when we consider that our climate is the same, and the soil not one whit less fertile.

Climate.

The Rev. R. Dowson has again supplied the particulars of the monthly range of his thermometer, and of the rainfall and direction of the wind. His observations were taken in Belize.

MONTH.	1869.							
	THERMOMETER.				RAIN.	WIND.		
	Mean Minimum.	Mean Maximum.	Lowest.	Highest.		Sea Breeze.	Land Breeze.	Variable.
						Days.	Days.	Days.
January	75·45	80·52	67·50	82·75	8·49	19	8	4
February	76·28	80·84	66·50	84·00	3·68	19	4	5
March	77·41	82·14	64·00	84·75	3·37	24	6	1
April	80·04	84·28	73·00	86·00	0.01	24	5	1
May	80·48	85·12	75·00	91·00	6·54	24	3	4
June	81·08	84·48	78·00	86·00	3·88	23	3	5
July	80·78	84·57	78·00	86·00	6·96	26	2	3
August	80·72	85·01	76·50	86·75	9·29	20	5	6
September	81·43	86·24	77·75	87·25	4·37	16	14	—
October	77·51	83·01	72·00	86·25	21·82	5	21	5
November	73·10	81·00	66·75	84·75	5·47	9	18	3
December	71·46	78·12	64·50	82·50	12·29	13	13	5
	77·98	82·94	64·00	91·00	86·17	222	101	42
	80·46							

Gaols.

56 prisoners were confined in the Belize Gaol at Michaelmas, 1869, and the total number during the whole year was 158. The greatest number in confinement at any one time was 63. No deaths occurred in the gaol. The chief occupations of the male prisoners at hard labour, when not required for gaol or poor-house service, were stone-breaking on the premises, collecting materials for building the prison wall, digging mud from the shallow bay in front of the town to raise certain portions of the land and for the repair of the town roads, and cleaning the streets and Government buildings and grounds. No strictly penal labour, such as shot-drill, has yet been introduced.

In the small district prison at Corozal, 18 prisoners were confined at Michaelmas, and at Orange Walk 3. In the former prison, the greatest number on any one day was 25, and in the latter, 6. They were employed in cleaning the streets and upon such other work as the Magistrate might direct. No deaths occurred. The offences for which they were imprisoned, were in Belize chiefly assaults, larcenies, and disorderly conduct; and in the agricultural districts there was the addition of offences under the Masters and Servants Act.

Charitable Institutions.

The number of patients in the Public Hospital of Belize on the last day of the year was 17, against 11 in 1868.

The inmates of the Lunatic Asylum numbered 10 at the same date, while at the corresponding period of 1868 I find them returned at 9.

In the Poor House, there were 17 old or helpless paupers when the year closed, as compared with 18 by the previous report.

It will be satisfactory to every person of right feeling in the Colony when the reproach of providing such miserable tenements for the reception of our objects of charity can be removed.

Conclusion.

The year began peacefully and with good hope of the continuance of peace; but towards its close it became necessary to adopt precautionary measures in view of the visits actual or promised of the Santa Cruz tribe of Indians, and of the exaggerated rumours attaching to those visits. The Frontier Police Force was therefore concentrated at Corozal, its head-quarters having previously been San Antonio, on Albion Island, Upper Hondo.

In November two Yucatecan settlers—a man and his wife—were carried across the Hondo, which is our river boundary, by a party of the Santa Cruz, and in the face of a promise to return them, the woman alone was sent back (after being flogged)—her husband having been put to death.

Alarms became frequent, the usual panic ensued, and troops had to be detached, in December, for outpost garrison duty at Corozal.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

The Santa Cruz and Ycaichés are the Scylla and Charybdis of our political perplexities from year to year. If the financial embarrasments of the Colony are not, in any one year, increased by a threatened inroad by *one* of these hitherto implacable foes, the *other* or rival tribe is all but certain to add to the heavy war budget which, for some time past, has been the most serious difficulty of successive administrations.

Yellow fever, of which some sporadic cases had occured in 1868, assumed an epidemic form in August of last year. Its victims were chiefly Europeans and Americans who had recently arrived; and it had totally disappeared by the first week in October.

The large tract of country known as the Ycacos grant (Southern district) was resumed by Government, Mr. Putnam (an American) and his friends having failed to comply with the terms upon which they were to have come into possession.

Only a very few parcels of Crown land, of the aggregate extent of 42 acres, were sold ("granted") during the year. Speculation, as derived from American sources, had altogether subsided, and many of the Southern immigrants left the Colony.

The contract with the owners of the steamer 'Trade Wind,' for the conveyance, once in every month, of the mails between New Orleans and British Honduras, was renewed for a further period of two years, and was taken on considerably reduced terms (3,000*l.* per annum). The loss, however, of that vessel, and other causes, led to great irregularities in the performance of the service, so that the general feeling reverted to the Jamaica route, as the more natural and convenient, as well as the more likely to ensure punctuality of communication with Europe.

The question of expense may retard the adoption of that route, but inasmuch as it is entitled to the preference for obvious political reasons, I believe that the decision in its favour cannot long be delayed.

A postal convention was concluded between the Imperial Post Office and the Government of the United States, by which the charge hitherto levied upon letters to and from this Colony and the Northern Republic was reduced from 9*d.* to 6*d.* the half-ounce, with obligatory prepayment in full.

The only usual return which is withheld from the enclosures to the Blue Book for 1869 is the inventory of the furniture in Government House. I am not satisfied with the accuracy of the list on record, but it shall be thoroughly revised in time for transmission in next year.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. W. CAIRNS.

The Officer Administering the Government of Jamaica,
&c. &c. &c.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

No. 3.

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from President CAMPBELL to Governor Sir J. P. GRANT, K.C.B.

(No. 11.)

SIR, Government House, Grand Turk, January 10, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1869, together with my Report on the various details comprised therein.

2. I fear my Report, from a financial point of view, will be found far from favourable, and I regret much to add that I see but little prospect of any change for the better until some modification be made by the United States Government on the present protective import duty on our staple commodity.

3. Now that the appointment of Auditor has been re-established in this Colony, I shall for the future be enabled to forward the Blue Book returns, together with my Report on the contents thereof, at an earlier period of the year.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) MELFORT CAMPBELL,
President.

Governor Sir J. P. Grant, K.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS BLUE BOOK FOR 1869.

General Revenue.

The receipts of general revenue for the year 1868 amounted to 8,729*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, classifying them under the following heads:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Import duties	3,690	3	2
Export ditto (salt)	2,912	11	5
Ditto ditto (dye-woods)	6	5	0
Light dues	731	15	4
Miscellaneous	1,389	4	7
Total for 1868	£8,729	19	6

For the year 1869:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Import duties	3,736	6	0
Export ditto (salt)	1,365	19	8
Ditto ditto (dye-woods)	13	10	8
Light dues	615	13	4
Miscellaneous	1,436	9	4
Making a total of	£7,167	19	0
and showing a decrease as compared with 1868 of	£1,562	0	6

2. To the amount collected for the year 1869 under the heads above enumerated must be added the sum of 662*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*, being surplus revenue for the year 1868, also the sum of 461*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* paid from the Crown chest in aid of the general revenue, in March, 1869; and 700*l.* borrowed from the Public Bank, thus swelling the amount of receipts collected from all sources for the year 1869 to 8,992*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*

General Expenditure.

3. The general expenditure for the year 1869 amounted to 9,743*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.*, showing an excess of expenditure over receipts derived from all sources of 751*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*

Value of Imports.

4. The total value of imports into this Colony for the year 1869 amounted to 34,873*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* against 40,778*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* for the year 1868, showing a decrease of 5,904*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*

Value of Exports.

5. The total value of exports from this Colony for the year 1869 amounted to 35,508*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* against 38,743*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* for 1868, exhibiting a decrease in value for 1869 amounting to 3,234*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* The following list shows the places from which our imports are chiefly derived, and the value of articles imported therefrom during the year 1869:—

Places.	Value. £	*s.*	*d.*
United States	21,209	12	3
St. Thomas	5,745	8	10
Hayti	1,450	7	2
St. Domingo	1,363	19	4
London	1,297	7	10

The following is a list of the value of exports from this Colony to the same places enumerated in the previous list:—

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

Places.	Value. £	s.	d.
United States - - -	26,072	11	8
St. Thomas - - - -	1,078	16	1
Hayti - - - -	775	10	4
St. Domingo - - - -	3,127	6	9
London - - - -	36	19	6

Import Duty.

6. The import duties for the year 1869 amounted to 3,736*l.* 6*s.* against 3,690*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* for 1868, showing but a slight improvement.

Export Duty.

7. The export duty on salt for the year 1869, at one farthing per bushel on 1,311,344 bushels, amounted to 1,365*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*; whereas for 1868, with that duty at one halfpenny per bushel on 1,398,029 bushels, the sum realized was 2,912*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, showing a loss to the general revenue for the year 1869, by the experimental reduction of the export duty on salt from one halfpenny to one farthing, of a sum amounting to 1,546*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*, being about one-seventh of the combined receipts derived from both general revenue and Crown fund.

Crown Fund.

8. This fund, which is almost exclusively formed by a 10 per cent. ad valorem duty on salt shipped from this Colony, in lieu of the sums formerly paid as rent by the lessees of the salt ponds, amounted for the year 1869 to the sum of 2,799*l.* 1*s.*, of which 2,661*l.* 11*s.* was the amount paid as Crown duty on salt shipped; the balance, 137*l.* 10*s.*, resulted from rents and sales of Crown lands, &c., &c. To this amount must be added balance of Crown fund from 1868, amounting to 461*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, making a total of 3,260*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*

Expenditure of Crown Fund.

9. The expenditure from this fund during the year 1869 was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Public school buildings - - -	43	11	1
Boiling Hole, Cockburn Harbour - -	57	18	2
Roads, streets, and bridges - - -	349	17	11
Repairs to Government buildings, &c. -	520	7	9
Water-tanks and wells - - -	3	4	0
Surveys - - - - -	16	0	0
Salaries and allowances - - -	81	15	2
Miscellaneous services - - . -	664	4	3

Showing a sum total of expenditure from the Crown fund for 1869 of 1,736*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, which amount being deducted from the sum of receipts, leaves a balance of 1,523*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*, which will be accounted for in the Crown fund accounts of 1870.

* Not printed.

10. The following table marked A,* embracing a period of twenty-one years, dating from the separation of this Colony from the Bahama Government in the year 1849 to the year 1869, both inclusive, shows the yearly value of imports and exports, the yearly amounts paid for import and export duties, the yearly quantity of salt exported, yearly rate of export duty per bushel on that article; also the averages under each head during the whole period. A few remarks of explanation are desirable on some of the items contained in this table. It will be noticed that from 1849 up to 1863, both years inclusive, there was a steady increase in the value of imports. During the years 1864, 1865, 1866, this increase was excessive: this is explained by the fact of goods having been imported and warehoused here for the purpose of re-exportation to St. Domingo, which place during those years was engaged in hostilities with the Spanish Government. In the year 1868 the value of goods re-exported from this Colony amounted to 11,609*l.*; these were

chiefly damaged articles recovered from the vessels sunk in the harbour of St. Thomas, in the cyclone which took place towards the end of the year 1867. On referring to that part of the table showing the quantity of salt exported, and the fluctuating rate of export duty paid per bushel on that article, it will be noticed that comparing the first eight years when the export duty was one halfpenny per bushel with a similar period when that duty was reduced to one farthing per bushel, the amount of salt sold during the former period was larger by 582,619 bushels than was sold during the latter period, when the export duty was reduced one-half.

Year.	Duty.	Bushels.	Year.	Duty.	Bushels.
	d.			*d.*	
1850 - -	½	1,169,402	1853 - -	¼	827,808
1851 - -	„	786,422	1854 - -	„	1,021,900
1852 - -	„	1,061,776	1855 - -	„	391,584
1864 - -	„	1,252,186	1856 - -	„	674,940
1865 - -	„	1,251,344	1857 - -	„	1,269,304
1866 - -	„	1,930,988	1858 - -	„	1,823,324
1667 - -	„	1,094,528	1859 - -	„	1,914,524
1868 - -	„	1,398,029	1860 - -	„	1,638,672
Total - -		9,944,675	Total - -		9,362,056
		9,362,056			
		582,619			

These facts, I think, will incontestably prove that the export duty, whether it be one halfpenny or one farthing, in no way influences the demand for our staple, notwithstanding the contrary has been repeatedly urged and asserted.

11. The following table, marked B,* shows the annual receipts and expenditure of general revenue and Crown fund, separately and combined, during the years 1849 to 1869, both inclusive, being a period of twenty-one years commencing from the date of the formation of this Colony as an independent Government up to the time on which I now report. This period being divided into three divisions of seven years each, and taking the average amount of combined expenditure during each septennial division and comparing it with the average amount of combined receipts for the same time, the following results are arrived at:—

* Not printed.

Septennial Periods.	Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1st - -	10,306	13	6¾	10,087	3	4¾
2nd - - -	11,039	19	9¼	11,712	14	9¼
3rd - -	12,835	4	10¼	13,128	15	8¼

Showing the average expenditure during the second and third periods to have been in excess over the receipts, especially so in the second period, though it might fairly be assumed the average expenditure would have been higher in the third septennial period, owing to the hurricane of 1866, which afterwards necessitated an unprecedented amount of expenditure. It is of course naturally to be expected that the expenditure of a newly formed Colony will increase, but it is gratifying to observe that in spite of the calamitous event in the third period before alluded to, the increase in expenditure has been so limited.

12. Applying the same plan of three septennial divisions to the Crown fund receipts alone, and taking the average amount during each such septennial period, it will be observed that the Crown fund receipts have diminished considerably during the third period, as the figures below exemplify:—

Septennial Periods.	Receipts of Crown Fund.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*
1st - - -	3,521	17	3¼
2nd - - - -	3,828	19	9½
3rd - - -	3,216	3	8½

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

This falling off in the Crown fund receipts during the last seven years can only be attributed to the change of tenure of the salt ponds from lease to freehold in the year 1864.

Legislation.

13. Ten Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of these Islands during the session of 1869, all of which received the Royal assent. The following are the titles thereof:—

No. 1. Requiring security from the Provost Marshal of these Islands.

No. 2. To amend Ordinance No. 8 of 1866, entitled "An Ordinance to amend Ordi-"nance No. 10 of 1852, for securing the public health."

No. 3. To reduce the public expenditure of the Presidency of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

No. 4. To amend Ordinance No. 12 of 1868, entitled "An Ordinance for raising a "revenue for the support of the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands;" and Ordinance No. 13 of 1868, entitled "An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 7 of 1849; "and Ordinance No. 12 of 1868;" and for other purposes.

No. 5. To provide for the appropriation of divers sums of money to be paid from the Colonial Treasury for and towards defraying the contingent expenses of the Presidency for the year 1870.

No. 6. To amend certain sections of Ordinance No. 8 of 1849, entitled "An Ordi-"nance to provide for the appointment of the officers of the public revenue."

No. 7. To amend Ordinance No. 7 of 1849, to provide for the collection of the revenue.

No. 8. To discourage the bringing of frivolous and vexatious suits in the Supreme Court of these Islands.

No. 9. To simplify and render more exact and precise certain forms of oaths to be used and administered to officials and others within these Islands.

No. 10. To amend the laws regulating the sale of land under judicial process, and conveyance of the same by the Provost Marshal; and for other purposes.

Consuls.

14. The only change in the Consular Department at these Islands in 1869 was the appointment of Mr. John H. Steuart as United States Consul, vice Mr. Oliver Mungen.

Education.

15. The total number of scholars throughout the various schools in the Colony supported by Government aid amounted to 446 during the year 1869, against 287 for the year 1868. The grant voted for educational purposes was 700*l.* The public school at Grand Turk is a large well-built edifice, containing boys', girls', and infants' schools; superintended by a head-master and inspector for the boys' school, a mistress for the girls' school, and a mistress and assistant-mistress for the infants' school. At Salt Cay there are two schools—one for boys and another for girls and children, superintended by a master and mistress. At East Harbour there is one school, mixed, superintended by a female teacher. At the other out-settlements, consisting of Bombarra, Kew, and Blue Hills, the schools are mixed, and each is superintended by a master. The total number of schools to which Government aid is afforded is nine. A fee is exacted from the parent of each child, amounting to 1½*d.* per week. Education in this Colony seems hardly to be appreciated as much as might be desired, owing to the fact of parents being able to make the labour of their children remunerative at the age of thirteen when the boys in the family can then be employed in driving mule carts laden with salt. There is an evident disinclination also amongst parents to apprentice their children out to a trade for a sufficiently long time to enable them thoroughly to learn their work, which must be a matter of regret, as the number of skilled mechanics seems yearly declining. The best workmen are the old hands who learned their trade in slavery time. This class of people is notoriously industrious, and far superior as regards skill and intelligence to those who have been reared in the Colony since emancipation. On that event taking place many of the then rising negro race considered freedom to mean

idleness, an illusion which, in this Colony, was fortunately soon dissipated, owing to the fact of the land being by no means productive, hence necessitating labour to ensure a maintenance, and most articles of consumption being obliged to be imported.

Agriculture.

16. The soil of these Islands is by no means favourable for agriculture. It is true that at the Caicos, in the days of slavery, sugar, potatoes, cotton, tropical fruits of every description, and horned stock, were raised by the energy of the early settlers in spite of dry seasons and scarcity of water. The estates at that portion of the Colony formerly owned by white settlers have been completely deserted, and the well-built mansions suffered to fall into decay. These old settlers were chiefly Royalists who left America during the war of independence, preferring residence under the British flag to uniting their fortunes with those of the then young Republic. Since that period, agriculture in these Islands has been almost neglected. Squatters have settled both on the abandoned estates as well as on adjoining Crown lands, and most of the owners of properties being uncertain as to their boundaries, the evils of the squatting system are thus facilitated. At present the black and coloured population at the out-settlements pursue agriculture in a manner that must eventually end in the complete destruction of the soil. Their method is to choose out likely spots of fertile ground, which they clear by burning the bush and underwood; they then plant their crops, and in a few years exhaust the soil, as manuring it is a matter they take no heed of. The fruit trees formerly planted by the old residents are never pruned or cared for in any way, and year by year their yield decreases, and those destroyed or suffered to decay are never replaced. At Lorimers the lands in the vicinity of the settlement have been so thoroughly exhausted by the vicious system pursued as to be no longer worth cultivating, the squatters having in many instances to walk a distance of seven miles from their place of abode to the more productive portions of ground on which they still continue their destructive system of agriculture, if such a term may be applied to it. To combat these evils is a matter of no little difficulty, owing to the fact of the lands not being worth the expense of survey; still I believe the evil of the existing state of things might in a degree be lessened by measuring the land out in blocks and imposing a land-tax on the occupiers in lieu of rent or purchase-money. The land question is a matter that can hardly be dealt with during the present unprecedented depressed state of the Colony; it is, however, engaging my earnest consideration.

Price of Land.

17. By Ordinance No. 8 of 1855, the price per acre of town lots is fixed at 4*l.* at Grand Turk, and 1*l.* per acre for suburban lots. At Cockburn Harbour, under Ordinances 3 and 8 of 1863, the price of town and suburban lots is fixed by the President from time to time; all other Crown lands are put up to public auction at the fixed upset price of four shillings per acre. As regards the sale of private lands, I may mention that lately an estate at North Caicos, comprising about 400 acres of good land, sold for 50*l.* at a credit of twelve months, thus realizing about 2*s.* 6*d.* per acre. Another estate at Bottle Creek, Middle Caicos, containing 700 acres, with buildings thereon, was sold in 1863 for 52*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*, or at a fraction less than 1*s.* 6*d.* per acre. In the year 1850, lands at Grand and Middle Caicos were sold by public auction and brought only 5½*d.* per acre. Attempts are now being made by one or two enterprising individuals to rear stock and plant cocoanut trees on some of the uninhabited Cays. The latter speculation is likely to prove a remunerative investment, provided owners of lands so planted can guard themselves against the depredations of trespassers.

Gaols.

18. Considering the size and resources of the Colony, the Gaol at Grand Turk bears favourable comparison with similar buildings in many larger Colonies. The building is of stone, and divided into fourteen well-ventilated separate cells. That part of the prison designed for females is entirely divided from that in which the male prisoners are confined. The whole building is surrounded by a high wall, with separate exercising grounds for the males and females. Shot-drill has lately been introduced with good effect, and the prisoners are kept strictly confined within the gaol walls, doing no out-door labour on the roads and public works, which was formerly the case, and which tended

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

to enliven their otherwise irksome confinement. The average cost per diem for the sustenance of prisoners was a fraction over 6*d.*

Poor-house and Sick Wards.

19. The Poor-house at Grand Turk is a well-built edifice, healthily situated, capable on an emergency of containing 20 inmates. The total expenditure for the poor-house during 1869, including salaries, cost of maintenance, &c., amounted to 486*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, in addition to 25*l.* 16*s.* expended on out-door relief. The average cost per diem of each inmate is about 1*s.* 10*d.* This is including cost for medical attendance, salaries for matron, &c., as well as food. Attached to the poor-house is a fragile building divided into three wards, used solely for the accommodation of the sick inmates of the poor-house and those seeking medical assistance who are unable to pay for the same. The total number of cases under medical treatment in this latter building amounted to 94, 3 deaths only occurring. Dysentery, diarrhœa, and rheumatism seem the chief ailments. No case of fever of any kind occurred, which testifies to the general salubrity of this Colony. I am informed that amongst the poorer coloured classes, phthisis is on the increase. This is to be attributed more to poverty of blood induced by want of nutritious food, and consequent inability to rally from exhausting diseases, than to any extreme climatic changes of temperature.

General Remarks.

20. I see no reason to differ from the opinion expressed in my Report for 1868 as to the future prospects of this Colony for some years to come. It is true the quantity of salt for 1869 has been above the average, though prices ranged low. Heavy losses were also sustained by the salt pond proprietors, particularly at East Harbour, by the heavy autumnal rains, which at that place alone destroyed over 150,000 bushels of salt. In addition to the drawback this Colony labours under through the heavy import duty in the United States on our sole staple commodity, it has to compete with other Islands which lately have been developed as salt-producing localities. At the neighbouring Island of St. Domingo I am informed there are vast natural salinas at present unworked, and requiring only a small outlay to render them most productive. It must also be borne in mind that the opening out of new districts on the American continent by the Pacific Railway may probably eventually lead to the utilization of those vast salt lakes as well as mines of that mineral that are known to exist, which hitherto, owing to the want of means of transit, have been regarded as valueless. I hear rumours, which I am by no means inclined to disbelieve, of extensive salt springs now being worked in Canada, from whence large quantities of salt, far superior to that produced by the Onondago and Syracuse companies, are being sent to the far western American States. Moreover it is a matter for thought, considering the rapid strides chemistry is making, whether other methods than salting food may not eventually be found, in order to ensure its preservation. Should the price of salt fall lower than it now is, namely, about 7 cents, or threepence-halfpenny per bushel, it is not difficult to foresee to what a depressed condition this Colony must be reduced, as it has no resources of any other kind beyond its sole staple to fall back upon, on the demand for which in the United States the existence of this Government depends. Should the heavy protective duty on foreign salt into the United States be diminished, or entirely abolished, this Colony may reasonably hope for a return to its former prosperity; but until that event occurs, I fear my annual reports as to its condition can hardly be regarded otherwise than unfavourable

I have, &c.,

(Signed) MELFORT CAMPBELL,

President.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 4.

No. 4.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Scott to The Earl of Kimberley.

(No. 119.)

My Lord, Government House, Georgetown, October 20, 1870.

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Colony for the past year 1869, together with my Report thereon.

The Blue Book has hitherto been prepared in manuscript, but it is now printed, and I hope the improved form in which it is presented to your Lordship will excuse the delay which the carrying out of this change has caused in its transmission.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The tax Ordinances, under which the revenue of the Colony is collected, are passed annually, but, as no material alterations have been made in them for some years past, the sum collected does not vary much comparing one year with another. In 1866 the revenue amounted to 304,816*l.*, and the expenditure to 310,877*l.* In the two following years, 1867 and 1868, there was a falling off in the revenue, the amounts being for 1867, 275,209*l.*, and for 1868, 290,881*l.*, while the expenditures for the same years were respectively 307,061*l.* and 297,348*l.*

During the above-mentioned three years, there was, therefore, an aggregate excess of expenditure over the revenue of 44,380*l.* During the past year, to which this Report refers, the revenue has recovered from this temporary depression, having reached the sum of 311,377*l.*, and as the expenditure was only 293,636*l.*, there remained an available balance of 17,742*l.*, which was appropriated to the liquidation of a portion of the deficiencies of the two previous years.

Commerce.

The statistical returns exhibiting the commerce of the Colony do not, when examined over several years, show any very marked changes.

Imports.—The value of the imports for 1867 was 1,498,524*l.*, for 1868, 1,618,377*l.*, and for 1869, 1,572,275*l.*; comparing the past year 1869 with 1868, there is exhibited a decrease in the value equal to 46,102*l.*, but a comparison with the previous year 1867 shows that those of 1869 exceed the value of the imports of 1867 by a sum of 73,751*l.*

Exports.—The exports being the produce of the Colony are now few in number. The cultivation of coffee and cocoa is abandoned, and cotton will also in a few years cease to be an export, its yearly value at present is insignificant.

The value of the timber exported has also greatly decreased of late years. Shingles, charcoal, and cocoanuts are items of export, but their value is not large, nor is it, apparently, likely to increase.

The industry of the Colony is chiefly confined to the production of sugar, molasses, and rum.

The following table exhibits a comparison between the exports of the year 1868 and 1869:—

	1868.	1869.	Increase or Decrease.
	£	£	£
Sugar	1,644,855	1,545,995	98,860 Dec.
Rum	277,760	298,537	20,777 Inc.
Molasses	126,105	141,012	14,907 Inc.
Timber	32,550	15,014	17,536 Dec.
Shingles	7,927	7,994	65 Inc.
Charcoal	3,909	3,993	84 Inc.
Cotton	6,107	5,575	532 Dec.
Cocoanuts	2,399	2,204	195 Dec.
Total exports, produce of Colony	2,101,614	2,020,324	81,290 Dec.
Exports, not produce of Colony	130,598	143,690	13,092 Inc.
Total exports	£2,232,212	2,164,014	68,198 Dec.

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By an inspection of the above table, it is seen that the value of the general exports in the past year fall short of those of 1868 by a sum of 68,198*l.*, and that the exported produce of the Colony was also of less value by a sum of 81,290*l.*

This decrease in the value of the exports arises chiefly from a falling off in the sugar crop; in 1868 there were exported 90,029 hogsheads of sugar of the value of 1,644,855*l.*, in the past year only 76,112 hogsheads of the value of 1,545,995*l.*

In 1868, 27,776 puncheons of rum were exported; in 1869, only 21,324 puncheons; but owing to the rise in rum, the exports represent an increased value on this item of 20,777*l.* over those of 1868. In 1868, 25,221 puncheons of molasses were exported; in 1869, 25,639 puncheons, representing an increased value of 14,907*l.*

The value of the timber exported in 1869 is less than half of that exported in 1868.

With reference to the large decrease in the quantity of sugar manufactured, it is to be attributed solely to the severe drought which prevailed here and throughout the West Indies, towards the close of the year 1868 and the commencement of 1869. The cultivation of the sugar-cane has, in fact, been extended during the past year, and the falling off may be said, therefore, to be accidental. There is every prospect that during the present year, owing to the seasons having been so far very favourable, there will be a large increase in the quantity of sugar manufactured.

The exports of the three staple productions in 1869 were thus distributed:—

SUGAR.

	£
To the United Kingdom	813,626
„ the United States	684,145
„ Foreign States	1,650
„ other Colonies	46,574

RUM.

	£
To the United Kingdom	261,632
„ the United States	—
„ Foreign States	8,477
„ other Colonies	28,448

MOLASSES.

	£
To the United Kingdom	10,367
„ the United States	88,236
„ Foreign States	11,858
„ other Colonies	30,553

As compared with the previous year, 1868, there has been a large diminution in the sugar exported to the United Kingdom. In 1868 it was of the value of 1,009,137*l.*; in 1869, 813,626*l.*

So also with regard to the molasses, the quantity exported to the United Kingdom in 1868 being of the value of 15,185*l.*, in 1869, 10,367*l.*

On the other hand, there has been a yearly increase in the quantity of sugar and molasses exported to the United States.

In the year 1863, the value of the sugar sent to the United States was only 79,468*l.*, during the past year it amounted to 684,145*l.* In the same year, 1863, the value of the molasses exported to the United States was 6,641*l.*, in 1869 it reached the value of 88,236*l.* The United States affords a very extensive and profitable market for these two articles of production, and judging from the increase which has recently taken place, it may be predicted that the trade will yearly become more valuable.

Shipping.—The returns under this head exhibit a slight increase in the number and tonnage, as compared with 1868, of vessels engaged in the general commerce of the Colony, with the exception of vessels from the United Kingdom, in regard to which there is a slight falling off. In 1868, the total number of vessels which entered was 854, representing a tonnage of 187,943; in the past year, 927 vessels were entered, giving a tonnage of 198,306.

Public Debt.

During the past year, Ordinance No. 9 of 1869 was passed, authorizing a loan of $500,000 for the construction of public works, bearing interest at the rate of 6 per cent.,

and redeemable by means of a sinking fund 25 years after the date of the issue of the bonds.

Under this Ordinance, $48,000 was borrowed in 1869. By Ordinance No. 12 of 1869 a loan of $15,000 was also authorized for the completion of the Roman Catholic Cathedral, and made chargeable upon the Colonial revenues, but to be repaid by the Roman Catholic Bishop seven years from the date of issue; the Colony in effect only giving its guarantee to the lenders.

The aggregate amount of the Colony debt on the 31st of December of the past year, as shown by the return in the Blue Book, was 649,939*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, and may be classed as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Raised by Government for governmental purposes, and repayable out of the general revenues	309,533	6	8
Borrowed for the improvement of the villages, and repayable out of the village rates	15,700	0	0
Borrowed for the completion of the Roman Catholic Cathedral, and repayable by the Bishop	3,125	0	0
Raised for immigration purposes, repayable by the planters, and secured by their notes, with interest	230,300	0	0
Borrowed for the Corporation of Georgetown, repayable by the Council, and secured on the property and revenues of the Corporation	91,281	5	0
	£649,939	11	8

It thus appears, that of the public debt the revenues of the Colony are directly responsible for 309,533*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* only, and that as regards the balance of 340,406*l.* 5*s.*, the Government may be said to occupy the position of guarantors holding counter-securities, all of which, with the exception of that dependent on the village rates, and which is comparatively for a small amount, may be considered unexceptionable.

The aggregate amount invested in sinking funds for the repayment of the Government debt already amounts to 182,191*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, or more than half the amount of the actual debt.

Immigration.

In British Guiana, where the successful production of the three great staple exports of the Colony depends so largely upon the importation of labour, the subject of immigration occupies a prominent position, and it is satisfactory that under this head the statistics of the past year exhibit a steady progress.

During the immigration season ending in June, 1869, there were introduced into this Colony from Calcutta, 2,903 men, 978 women, 239 boys, 119 girls, and 253 infants, being equivalent to 3,956½ statute adults, at a cost, including all expenses both in India and the Colony, of $388,703, or an average per head of $98·24. On the other hand, the ship 'Ganges' left in September for Calcutta with the following return immigrants, viz. 233 men, 101 women, 38 boys, 26 girls, 18 infants, being equal to 366 statute adults.

I may mention, as possesing some interest, that these people had in their possession on leaving money and jewellery to the value of 3,000*l.*, and that there was remitted to India on their account the sum of 10,740*l.*, making a total of 13,740*l.* The return voyage of the 'Ganges' to Calcutta was very favourable, only one death having occurred.

At the close of the year 1869 there were residing on estates under indenture of service, 23,421 male and 8,946 female East Indian immigrants, and 4,739 male and 666 female Chinese immigrants. There were also residing on estates, but not under indenture, 3,759 male and 2,550 female Indian immigrants, and 442 male and 302 female Chinese immigrants, making a total of 38,676 Indian and 6,149 Chinese immigrants residing and working upon the sugar estates.

These immigrants are scattered over 124 estates, the majority of which have upwards of 300, and a few as high as 800 in their employ. The numbers given above do not take into account the large number of immigrants who, having completed their service under indenture, are living in the towns and following their own avocations; the precise number of this class of immigrants cannot be ascertained; a general census of the population will, however, be taken next year, and the actual number of Indian and Chinese immigrants living in the Colony will be then ascertained.

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The sanitary condition of immigrants working on the estates must be regarded as not unfavourable.

The yearly mortality on each estate varies, and some estates may be considered as being permanently less salubrious than others, but the exertions made to improve all sanitary arrangements bearing upon these people have been attended with good results. The annual rate of mortality between the years 1863 and 1867 varied amongst the Calcutta immigrants from 5·67 to 4·21 per cent.; amongst the Madrases from 6·3 to 4·01 per cent.; and amongst the Chinese from 6·61 to 4·75 per cent. During the past two years the percentage has been, amongst Calcutta immigrants, for 1868, 2·93; for 1869, 2·92; amongst Madrases, for 1868, 4·05; for 1869, 3·39; and amongst the Chinese, for 1868, 3·41; and for 1869, 3·3.

In addition to the Indian immigrants there has been brought into the Colony during 1869, under an arrangement by which this Government pays the passage money, a number of immigrants from Barbados and Madeira. From Barbados 976 were introduced at a cost of $4,825, and from Madeira 238 at a cost of $4,610.

The number of Portuguese now in the Colony is very large and yearly increasing. They are an exceedingly industrious people, and form a valuable addition to the population.

Public Works.

The public works carried on during the past year were not of a character to call for any special remark. The chief expenditure was for the sea-wall for the protection of the city from the encroachment of the sea. This work was commenced several years ago and has made considerable progress, but as the whole of the stone of which it is being constructed has to be brought from the penal settlement on the Massaruni river, where the granite quarries are situated, its construction is necessarily not very rapid. The other public works have been principally confined to the repair or enlargement of existing buildings.

Legislation.

Nineteen Ordinances were enacted during the past year. Amongst these was an Ordinance to enable the International Ocean Telegraph Company, whose rights have since, by a subsequent Ordinance, been transferred to the West Indian Telegraph Company, to establish a telegraphic communication between this Colony and the principal West Indian Islands, and viâ Havannah with the United States, on the condition of a yearly subsidy of 3,000*l.* to be paid to the Company during a term of ten years.

It is expected that this work, which has already been begun, will be completed early next year. As it will place British Guiana in telegraphic communication with Great Britain, and thence with other countries to the east, it cannot fail to be of great importance to the commerce and welfare of the Colony.

The other Ordinances were of a local character, and do not appear to call for any special remarks.

Pensions.

During the past year three pensions, in the aggregate of the annual value of 826*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, lapsed by the death of the holders, but on the other hand four pensioners were added to the list, the annual value of whose pensions amount to 1,623*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*; there has, therefore, been a small increase under this head of service. At the close of 1869 there were 16 persons in receipt of Government pensions, amounting in the aggregate to the sum of 4,839*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*

Population.

The returns inserted in the Blue Book under this head are those of the census of 1861. The population at that date, excluding aborigines, seamen, and soldiers, was ascertained to be 148,026. In 1868 an Ordinance was enacted, establishing a system of registration of births and deaths, and taking the data obtained during the past year in carrying out this measure, although confessedly very imperfect owing to the difficulties experienced in perfecting the machinery during the first year, it is estimated that the population cannot now be less than 198,337. At least 44,000 of this increase is due to immigration.

The increase in the fixed population is estimated at about 6,000 souls.

Savings Banks.

The Savings Banks are Government institutions. An Ordinance was passed during 1869 repealing the Ordinance of 1854 under which the banks were conducted, the object of which was to give greater facilities to depositors.

Under the old Ordinance the banks were open only on Mondays and Saturdays, and no deposits were taken of a less sum than $2. Under the recent law the banks are open daily, and sums are received as low as half a dollar.

The interest allowed on deposits is at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, but this rate may at any time, should the profits of the banks permit, be increased by a resolution of the Governor and Court of Policy. There is at present two banks, one at the seat of Government, and another in New Amsterdam, in the county of Berbice, and it is in contemplation, if found practicable, to establish district savings banks, for which the Ordinance makes provision, in order to render greater facilities to depositors, and especially to the Indian and Chinese immigrants.

The total amount of deposits on the 31st of December was 63,305*l.* 17*s.* 5½*d.* against 59,170*l.* 13*s.* 2½*d.* on the 31st of December, 1868.

The deposits are classed as below :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
East Indian - - - -	26,699	14	6½
Chinese - - - - -	1,089	15	10
Portuguese - - - -	9,725	15	9
Creoles and others - - - -	25,790	11	4
Total - -	£63,305	17	5½

Education.

The total amount granted by the legislature in 1869 in support of education was $78,654, or 16,386*l.* 5*s.*

The public schools receiving assistance are of two classes.

The first class consists of the "Queen's College Grammar School," established by ordinance and placed under the management of a council of which the bishop of the diocese is president; of the "Bishop's College," also under the presidency of the bishop, but admitting pupils of all religious denominations; and of the "Roman Catholic "Orphan Asylum" at the Ursuline Convent.

The grant made in the past year in aid of these institutions was $8,260. The second class consists of the schools scattered throughout the Colony and under the direction of the different religious denominations, amounting to the number of 135 : of these 55 belong to the Church of England, 28 to the Church of Scotland, 4 to the Roman Catholic, 24 to the Wesleyan, and 24 to the Congregationalists.

The grant in aid of these schools was $70,394, or 14,665*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*

The number of children on the books on the 31st of December was 15,365, and the average daily attendance was 8,662.

These elementary schools, and the distribution of the public grant, are under the general supervision of a Board of Education of which the Governor is president, assisted by an inspector of schools. During the past year a change was made in the regulations under which the grant was distributed. Formerly the amount to each school depended upon the daily average attendance of pupils, and the number and the class of masters employed, but not on the proficiency of the pupils, and without any reference to the progress made by the children, and under this system numerous anomalies in the distribution of grant had crept in; some of the schools having fewer pupils, and exhibiting less proficiency, receiving larger grants than others more numerously attended and classed higher at the annual examination by the Inspector. To remedy this the new regulations give a per caput allowance based upon the average daily attendance of the scholars, and the class in which the school may be placed upon examinations; the allowance varying from $3 to $7 per caput.

Exceptions are made to this rule in the cases of outlying schools, where neither a large attendance nor great proficiency can be expected.

These have special and larger grants made to them.

Objections have been put forward to this new scheme, because it withdraws all money value from the class certificates of the teachers, and does not, it is considered, hold out to them sufficient inducement for self-improvement.

Should this objection be found by experience to be a valid one, the Board of Education is quite prepared to modify the scheme.

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The Inspector of schools, in his annual report attached to the Blue Book, adverts to the difficulties against which he has to contend. The population is of a mixed race and widely scattered, and there exists amongst the rising generation a vast amount of idleness and a lamentable disinclination to do anything for themselves. Still, although the standard of education attained in these elementary schools is not a high one, he is of opinion that education is exercising a salutary effect upon the character of those who attend the schools, and that it is slowly, but surely, bearing good fruits, in spite of many depressing circumstances.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The statistical returns in the Blue Book under this head do not offer any marked differences with those furnished for the previous year 1868. The prisons are of three classes.

First, the penal settlement used exclusively for convicts sentenced to not less than five years' penal servitude.

Second, the Georgetown, the New Amsterdam, and the Capoey Gaol, situated respectively in the counties of Demerara, Berbice, and Essequibo, used for ordinary prisoners.

Third, the district prisons of Fellowship and Mahaica, erected for the confinement of indentured immigrants undergoing imprisonment for breaches of contract, or other misdemeanours under the immigration ordinances.

The total number of convicts at the penal settlement is given at 180 against 205 in 1868.

In the Georgetown, New Amsterdam, and Capoey Gaols, there were 613 persons in confinement, classed as follows:—

For felony,	convicted,	179,	waiting trial,	22
„ thefts,	„	95	„	0
„ assaults,	„	57	„	0
„ other offences	„	216	„	9

The total number of prisoners committed during the course of the year was 6,383, and of these 352 had been committed twice, and 64 three times or oftener.

The Fellowship and Mahaica district gaols were established a few years ago for the confinement of indentured immigrants for breaches of contract of service under the Immigration Ordinance, and have been found to answer remarkably well. These prisoners are worked on one of the neighbouring sugar estates, in a gang, under the charge of a Government overseer, and at task work, as all other coolies are, and at the same rate of payment. The earnings are paid to Government and are sufficient to cover the cost of the maintenance of the prisoners and all other expenses, except that of the medical attendance, and even this is partly paid out of the proceeds.

By this plan the labour of these immigrants is utilized in a way more beneficial to the interests of the Colony than if they were confined in the ordinary gaols and employed on the public work.

Most of these immigrants are sent to gaol for desertion or refusal to work in terms of their indenture, and the punishment practically inflicted on them is to compel them to do on another estate, under prison discipline, the same work which they had failed or refused to do on the estate to which they were indentured. It has besides the further advantage of separating these people, whose offences involve no moral turpitude, from the criminal class in the ordinary gaols. The two district prisons now in use are only for the county of Demerara and part of Essequibo.

On the Arabisce coast, the immigrants are sent to the Capoey Gaol, and in the county of Berbice to the gaol at New Amsterdam, and I think it would be wise, as soon as practicable, to provide district prisons for these portions of the Colony also.

Hospitals.

The hospital returns inserted in the Blue Book are framed in accordance with those transmitted in a circular from your Lordship's predecessor, and have plans annexed showing the floor space in each hospital and asylum.

I have been directed in transmitting these hospital returns to point specifically to any variations in the actual construction, management, and conditions of the hospitals in British Guiana from the principles set forth in the Digest of 1864.

The hospitals of this Colony are placed under the government of Boards established

by special ordinances. This is at variance with the opinions expressed in the Digest, which are not in favour of this mode of government, but it is admitted that some of the Colonial hospitals have been successfully managed by Boards, and the Digest seems to allow of the continuance of this method of government and sketches out the powers which such Boards should exercise. To define minutely the powers of the Boards existing in this Colony, and their general system of controlling and governing these institutions, would require me to enter into details which would be too lengthy for a Report such as usually accompanies the Blue Book, and I have in my Despatch No. 4 of the 12th of January last given some explanations on this and the general condition of the hospitals and asylums. I will only, therefore, state in general words that the powers recommended to be exercised by the Boards of Management and the medical officers do not differ materially from those entrusted to these officers in this Colony. And I may add that I think an inspection of the hospitals, as these institutions are now conducted, would reflect creditably upon their management. The Combined Court has been always disposed to make liberal grants for the improvement of the buildings, and defects have been gradually removed as far as practicable.

The appointment of paid medical inspectors is recommended in the larger Colonies, and in the smaller, unpaid inspectors. No such officers have been appointed in British Guiana.

Certain members of the Board of Directors are appointed by rotation to make visits of inspection in the case of the Georgetown hospital once each week, and the Ordinances confer upon the members of the Court of Policy and upon all ministers of religion, the right of visiting and inspecting these institutions. Any remarks that may be made by these visitors are open to the inspection of all interested in, or officially connected with, these institutions. The Board of Directors report annually to the Governor and Court of Policy, and the medical officer in charge monthly to the Board of Directors on minor details. It is probable that improvements may be made in this mode of supervision, and I propose, now that my attention has been drawn to the Digest, with which I was not previously acquainted, to examine how far these can be accomplished.

There are no chaplains attached to these institutions; voluntary visits are made by ministers of the various religious denominations, but this can scarcely be said to be sufficient for the spiritual requirements of the numerous patients. This is a defect which I should be glad to see removed, and to which I have already incidentally alluded in the Legislature.

The Digest also recommends that visits should be made in all cases by judges and juries. This, I presume, means grand juries, as the persons composing petty juries, especially in a Colony with mixed classes, would not, generally speaking, be suited for such a duty. There are no grand juries here as in England. The judges, if they visit the hospitals, do so as voluntary visitors.

In the Digest the condition of the hospitals in 1863 are strongly commented upon, and I will offer a few remarks explanatory of their present condition.

The water supply is there stated to be insufficient and of bad quality in dry seasons. On this subject I will quote the remarks made by me in my Despatch of the 4th of January last.

"The supply of water to the hospital in Georgetown is sufficiently abundant. For drinking and for cooking the supply is obtained, as elsewhere throughout the Colony, by the storage of the rain-water in tanks, and is consequently of the purest kind. The water for bath and similar purposes is obtained from the savannas in the interior, and is brought by means of a canal and by waterworks made available to the whole town. It is usually called 'creek water,' and though highly coloured, is not considered to be unwholesome, and is used for all purposes by the common people."

"The hospital and lunatic asylum in Berbice have not the same advantage as regards a supply of water. They have to depend entirely upon rain-water, which, although ample for drinking and all domestic purposes, can only be used sparingly for baths. Salt water can, however, be obtained from the river."

In the answers given in the returns inserted in the Blue Book it is stated that the water supply at the hospital in Georgetown is "ad libitum;" at the hospital, Berbice, "unlimited." No doubt during an unusually dry season it would be necessary to observe great economy in the use of the rain-water, but I am informed that it has never fallen short.

The sewerage is also condemned, and also the latrines. The drainage is still effected by means of open gutters and trenches, but this is unavoidable in a country where the land is below the high-water mark of the sea, and the drainage is carried on by a system of sluices. No fecal matter now flows into these gutters as formerly. All the latrines

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are on the dry-earth system, a sanitary improvement which cannot be too highly commended.

In the Digest the ventilation is also spoken of as being insufficient. This could not be asserted at the present day, and I am not aware that any improvements could be adopted. Patients more frequently complain that the circulation of air is too great rather than insufficient.

Baths are now provided in all these institutions, and I may add that these are now being improved. In the Georgetown hospital a separate wing is being built specially for the baths and dry-earth latrines.

In the summary of defects mentioned in the Digest it is stated that not more than an average of 700 cubic feet of air are allowed to each patient.

This it appears to me must have been founded upon erroneous information supplied as to the cubical capacity of each ward. From an inspection of the plans it will be observed that what is termed a verandah runs round most of the wards, a misnomer conveying an erroneous impression. It is not exterior to the walls of the building, as the word implies, but merely a portion of the interior floor space partitioned off by jalousies, which open and shut, and which are erected for the purpose of regulating the current of air over the beds of the patients, when, as is often the case, the trade wind, which is almost constant here during ten months of the year, is too strong. In estimating the cubical contents of the building as regards the air-space, these so-called verandahs must be included. From the returns it will be seen that the cubic feet of air to each patient when thus calculated varies from 1,444 to 2,398 in the Georgetown hospital, and in the Berbice hospital from 1,931 to 2,081 cubic feet.

In the male wards numbered 11 and 12, and in the female wards numbered 5 and 6, of the Georgetown hospital, the cubic feet of air-space is given as low as 648, but it must be explained that these are rooms for moribund cases.

The foul ward of the Georgetown hospital gives only 428 cubic feet of air to each bed, but very few of the patients—chiefly with chronic ulcers, a very common malady of the country—are confined to their beds or to the ward. It is a detached building, formerly used for another purpose, old and dilapidated, and I purpose to submit to the Legislature a vote for the erection of a more suitable building.

In the Digest it is remarked in reference to the hospitals that "the internal management is obstructed by the indiscriminate admission and the retention of numerous "chronic and incurable cases." This criticism is to some extent still applicable. In the return for the Georgetown hospital it is stated that one male patient stayed 1,651 days, a female patient 1,770 days, and a seaman 111 days, and in the Berbice hospital one patient was an inmate for 914 days.

This does not arise as might be surmised from any remissness on the part of the Board of Directors or medical officers, but from causes not readily explained in a few words.

All the charitable institutions of the Colony are supported solely by annual votes of the Legislature, and as the creoles are generally of most improvident habits, it happens, when old age or sickness comes on, that many become a burden on the public institutions or the charity of the public. Chronic cases which would not be admitted into hospitals in England must almost necessarily be taken in in British Guiana. After a time, when practicable, these cases are sent to the poor asylum, but in a few instances, and under peculiar circumstances, a patient from humane motives has been allowed to continue under medical treatment in the hospital. An addition to the poor asylum is now being made, and the increased accommodation which this will afford will give greater facilities for the removal of chronic cases from the hospital.

The number of nurses in the service of the hospitals is, for Georgetown hospital, 26 day and 7 night nurses, and for the New Amsterdam hospital, 11 day and 2 night nurses. It is possible that the number may be below the number of nurses recommended in the Digest, but it is found to be amply sufficient here.

Both the hospitals have resident surgeons, who are not allowed to have private practice, and provision is made with regard to the two additional resident surgeons at the Georgetown hospital for limiting the period of office to four years, as recommended in the Digest.

Perhaps I cannot more satisfactorily conclude these remarks on the hospitals than by a quotation from a letter addressed to me by the Surgeon-General. "I can safely assert "that the Colonial and Seaman's Hospital in Georgetown, when the new bath-rooms and "dry-earth closets will be finished—and this will be in less than three weeks—will vie "with the best-conducted hospitals in Europe, although we have not followed the suggestions offered in the circular of 1864, suggestions many of which are totally inappli-

"cable to a country like British Guiana. The public hospitals in British Guiana are "most creditable to the Colony, especially when due regard is paid to the difficulties "which meet us on every side." BRITISH GUIANA.

Lunatic Asylum.

At the period when the Digest was published, the Colonial lunatic asylum was in Georgetown, and was very strongly condemned.

It is now at New Amsterdam. This institution was established by Ordinance No. 4 of 1867, and is placed under the government of the Board of Directors, who have the general control of the Berbice hospital. Members of the Combined Court, the Colonial Surgeon-General, all justices of the peace, and all ministers of religion, with others, are visitors.

There is a resident surgeon, who sends to the Governor a full report of all matters connected with the asylum every six months.

The visiting physician of the general hospital is bound to visit the Asylum at least once a month, and if needful, report to the Governor on any particular matter which he may consider worthy of special notice. The Governor can also at any time call upon him for a general report.

Patients are admitted on the separate certificates of two licensed medical practitioners, after a separate examination of the patient by each.

The form of certificate is given in the schedule of the Ordinance, and is apparently drawn out from that recommended in the Digest. Certificates of insanity may also be given by a single medical practitioner, which admits the patient into one of the general hospitals to undergo probationary treatment, after which, if considered insane, the patient is admitted into the Asylum on the certificate of the surgeon of the hospital.

There is no salaried Government inspector, nor chaplain, as already explained in the remarks on the hospitals.

The Digest states that the proportion of attendants should not be less than one to fifteen patients.

By the return it will be seen the proportion of attendants exceeds that number.

The daily average number of patients in 1869 was 100, while the total number of resident, and non-resident attendants is ten, and three servants, partially used as attendants.

The average amount of cubic space available for each patient is stated to be 934·66 feet, slightly below that named in the Digest. I may remark, however, that an additional female ward is now being added to the Asylum, and it is contemplated shortly to make a similar addition to the men's ward.

In the return it is stated that the baths are not yet erected, they are now in full operation.

With regard to the water supply, it will be seen that the patients are stated to have an "unlimited allowance."

On this subject, as also upon the question of the sewerage and latrines, I would beg a reference to my remarks made under the head of Hospitals.

In the Digest it is stated that the most important means for the proper amusement for the insane is a sufficiency of land for exercise and for cultivation.

The grounds around the asylum are extensive enough to give one acre for each patient, which greatly exceeds the area recommended; but neither agriculture nor gardening can be extensively used in a tropical climate like British Guiana; indeed in the Digest it is doubted whether in such a climate out-door labour could be beneficially employed.

The amusements at present afforded to the patients are very limited, being confined, as stated in the return, to "music occasionally, when they dance, and occasional visits "given by gentlemen to amuse the patients."

This has been considered as insufficient, and other means of amusement of a simple character are now being procured, which need not be enumerated. In a letter recently received from the resident surgeon he remarks that the "difficulty of affording amuse-"ment to lunatic patients is necessarily limited, and that the difficulty is further "increased here by the different races, and it becomes a matter of perplexity to amuse "at once Chinese, East Indians, Portuguese, Africans, Creoles, and occasionally Americans "and Europeans."

Charitable Institutions.

Amongst the charitable institutions there is a leper asylum at Mahaica, containing at present 243 inmates, but as it is contemplated to make certain changes with regard to the maintenance and treatment of these unfortunate creatures, it would be useless to offer any observations on the condition of the asylum during the past year.

The orphan asylum was established by Ordinance No. 12 of 1868, and is situated in Georgetown. It contained at the close of the year 138 inmates, consisting of children of all the races in the Colony, including the children of Chinese and East Indian immigrants. It is well managed under the general control of the Sheriff, and is a credit to the Colony.

The almshouse in Georgetown is under the management of the Board of Poor Law Commissioners.

It contained at the close of the last year 243 inmates.

A somewhat similar institution in New Amsterdam, under the management of the Board of Church and Poor Fund, contained 109 inmates.

Both of these Boards are also entrusted with the distribution of the funds annually voted by the Legislature for the out-door relief of the poor.

A sum of $48,000 was voted for out-door relief of the past year 1869.

Concluding Remarks.

The occurrences of the past year have not presented any marked features calling for special remarks beyond the explanatory observations already made under the various heads into which the Blue Book is divided.

I have already stated that the drought which prevailed towards the close of 1868, and during the first months of 1869, had the effect of causing a very large falling off in the sugar crop, as compared with the previous year; but, on the other hand, the increased price obtained in the market in a great measure compensated the planters, there is reason to believe, for the deficient crop.

In a Colony the prosperity of which depends almost wholly upon the successful production of a single staple, there is naturally no small amount of anxiety continually directed towards all subjects bearing upon this industry, and it is satisfactory that I can report favourably of the prospects of the present year.

Judging from all appearances, it may reasonably be anticipated that the sugar crop of this season will be equal to, if it do not exceed, that of any former year.

The cane cultivation is being extended, and although there are some estates which have not completely relieved themselves from the embarrassments which fell upon them in past years, I think I shall not err in stating that the position of all the planters is hopeful and not unsatisfactory.

The Colony has been favoured with a remarkably healthy season. An occasional epidemic of those maladies which are inseparable from, and common to, all tropical climates has prevailed. With the exception of one or two sporadic cases, there has been no yellow fever. The mortality of the entire population for the past year has been calculated by the Registrar of Births and Deaths at 30·74 per thousand, and there was only one death in the garrison among an average of 120 persons.

An impression prevails abroad that the climate of British Guiana is extremely unhealthy and dangerous for Europeans, but this is an erroneous impression, yet unfortunately so deeply seated that it is useless to contend against it.

No doubt the climate is enervating to the European constitution, and the Colony is liable, as is every other country, to the visitation of epidemics of a fatal character, but even in this respect British Guiana will bear a favourable comparison with other tropical countries.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. SCOTT.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

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No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir JAMES WALKER, K.C.M.G., C.B., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 489.)

MY LORD, Government House, Nassau, November 30, 1870.

IN connection with the Blue Book for 1869, which has been already transmitted to your Lordship's department, I proceed to make the usual annual report on the condition and prospects of the Colony.

Taxes and Duties, &c.

2. The tariff of import duties, which had previously been passed for only 12 months, was last year re-enacted for 10 years, and a few months subsequently the necessities of the Colony led to a further imposition for three years of 25 per cent. on all existing duties.

3. At the same time the tonnage duties underwent some change. Under the former law there existed a duty of 1*s.* 6*d.* a ton, which was, however, refunded to vessels taking away cargoes of salt or fruit. The new law levies a tonnage duty inwards of 1*s.* per ton and outwards of a like sum, but exempts from the latter all vessels carrying away cargoes of salt or fruit, and it repeals the exemption theretofore extended to steamers and vessels laden with coal. Connected with the customs revenue, I should mention that the long prevalent system of granting six months' credit for the payment of duties has this year been revised, and one month's credit substituted. The time allowed for the payment of auction dues has also been reduced from six months to one, and some very moderate additions have been made to the fees collected in the Registrar's office.

4. A change also of some importance has within the few last months been effected in the export duties. Wrecked property when exported from the Colony in other bottoms than those in which it came here, used to be subject to a duty of four per cent. This has been abolished, and a duty of one and a half per cent. has been substituted on all exports except Government stores, specie, and some articles of natural product, irrespective of the manner in which they came into the Colony.

Revenue and Expenditure.

5. For the four last years the revenue and expenditure has been as follows:—I carry the comparison no farther back, because the years immediately previous to 1866 were the years of the civil war in the United States, when everything in Nassau was in an abnormal state.

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1866 - -	52,205	77,718
1867 - -	47,908	80,372
1868 - -	40,777	68,306
1869 - -	35,360	40,376

6. From these figures it will be seen that although we succeeded in bringing down our expenditure for last year to the revenue of the preceding year, yet that we exceeded our income by a sum of 5,000*l.* This being added to the deficiencies of former years, it will not have surprised your Lordship to see it noted in the Blue Book that at the end of 1869 there was a sum of nearly 10,000*l.* due on account of the salaries of public officers alone.

7. I should not like this unfavourable report of things at the close of last year to go before Parliament without the statement which I have recently had the pleasure of making to your Lordship, that without adding a single farthing to our public debt, we have since contrived to pay the salaries and pensions and the expenses of the public establishments almost up to date, and to withdraw from circulation nearly the whole of the Treasury notes, while our other liabilities have been reduced to an amount which need give us no uneasiness if the revenue should continue at its present rate.

8. For this improved state of things, neither the Government nor the Legislature are entitled to any particular credit. Some small addition, it is true, was made to the

BAHAMAS.

import duties, and great reductions have been made in the general expenditure, but a large part of the relief came from the wealth which was thrown into the Colony by wrecks in the months of March and April, assisted by the proceeds of several vessels condemned for violation of the customs laws.

9. I take the following comparative statement of the Colonial expenditure from the Blue Book :—

DEPARTMENTS.

	1868.	1869.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Civil - - -	14,117 11 3	9,946 2 11	4,171 8 4
Judicial - - -	10,930 7 2	7,570 11 7	3,359 15 7
Ecclesiastical - -	3,747 0 10	2,514 12 8	1,232 8 2
Services - - -	38,458 19 9	19,273 10 4	19,185 9 5
Total - - -	67,253 19 0	39,304 7 6	27,949 1 6

Debt.

10. The return under this head shows a debt in debentures of 54,161*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, being an increase of 3,024*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* upon the amount stated to be owing at the close of 1868. This addition was incurred in the few first days of January, 1869, and was chiefly connected with transactions of 1868. On the 11th day of January a change of Government occurred, since which there has been no addition to the public debt, save in a sum of 276*l.*, some trust-money of the Bishop of the diocese, for which he was desirous of procuring the security of the Colonial Government. On the contrary, the floating debt of the Colony, upwards of 2,000*l.* in Treasury notes, has been extinguished.

Military.

11. The head-quarters of the 2nd West India regiment were withdrawn from the Colony in 1869, and the detachment of troops stationed here has been since reduced from nine officers and 288 men, to seven officers and 134 men, the numbers in garrison on the 1st of January and 1st inst. respectively. There is no militia nor volunteer force in the Colony. But we have been seldom without the presence of a vessel of war since the spring of last year, the sole necessity for which has arisen from the troubles in Cuba and the proceedings of parties resorting hither in concert with the insurgents.

Public Works.

12. The only public work deserving the name, undertaken during the past year, was the building of a church in the parish of St. Ann's, to the eastward of Nassau. We were obliged to find the means for it, in redemption of a pledge made some time previously by the Government.

Legislation.

13. The legislation of 1869 commenced at a period of much financial embarrassment
32 Vic. c. 13. by an Act for the prospective reduction of the public establishments. But it went much farther than its title imported. For besides amalgamating, abolishing, and reducing the salaries of a number of offices as vacancies should occur, it dispensed at once with the services of numerous subordinate officers upon the payment of pensions or gratuities; it established a regular system of audit by the Colonial Secretary; it regulated anew and extended the duties of most of the public departments; it limited and fixed the amount of the educational grant, and left its appropriation to the Education Board; it at once reduced the numbers of the police force and made a considerable change in their class; and it raised the age at which a public officer could claim his superannuation from 50 to 60 years of age.

32 Vic. c. 14. 14. The next Act continued for a period of 10 years the import tariff, which had been previously enacted for only 12 months.

32 Vic. c. 16. 15. The third Act was for carrying out capital punishment within the prison, and was
32 Vic. c. 17. followed by several minor enactments for amending the laws respecting treason, the
32 Vic. c. 18. quarantine law, and the laws for the maintenance of the poor.

16. An Act for regulating the registration of voters, and an Act for regulating the supply of stationery to the public departments were designed as measures of reform and economy. 32 Vic. c. 19. 32 Vic c. 24.

17. The Acts for altering the tonnage duties and for levying a percentage on the present import tariff have been already adverted to; and two other Acts, one to reduce the salaries of certain public officers, and another to authorize the issue of a paper currency, were not allowed. 32 Vic. c. 22. 32 Vic. c. 29. 32 Vic. c. 25. 32 Vic. c. 28.

18. But perhaps the most important measure passed by the Legislature in 1869 was the Act which is intended to disestablish and disendow the old Anglican Church of the Colony. It is entitled "An Act to amend the Ecclesiastical Laws of the Colony, and "for other purposes." It at once abolishes all charges on the public Treasury on account of churches and chapels of every denomination, and limits the payment of the endowments of the clergy to a period of seven years, with a reservation, however, of the interests of existing incumbents so long as they shall continue to hold office. 32 Vic. c. 27.

19. There was also the annual Appropriation Bill, which contained no extraordinary provisions, and the remaining Acts were of a purely local or personal character. 32 Vic. c. 26 32 Vic. c. 20. 32 Vic. c. 21. 32 Vic. c. 23. 32 Vic. c. 30.

Council and Assembly.

20. Several appointments were made to the Legislative Council which have added to its weight and respectability, though affecting in the same degree the other branch of the Legislature from which they were necessarily selected. The House of Assembly also suffered by the secession of several of its oldest and most honoured members. The question of the disestablishment of the church having been settled, the bitterness arising out of the controversy has subsided, but it has left behind it a feeling of separation from the Government which marks all the proceedings of the House, and is particularly distinguishable in the majority through whose activity the disendowment measure was promoted and carried.

Civil Establishment.

21. There have been a very great many changes in the civil establishment of the Island since the beginning of 1869. A new Governor and a new Colonial Secretary entered upon office in January. The death of Mr. Rothery, the Assistant Judge, in the fall of the year, led at once to the previously contemplated abolition of his office. The retirement of Dr. Kirkwood facilitated the amalgamation of several of the medical offices of the Colony.

It was among the subordinate employés of the Government, however, that the changes by reduction or consolidation were most numerous, but they were all carried out with as tender a regard to individual interests as was possible.

22. Large as were the reductions thus effected under what was called the Prospective Retrenchment Bill, and up to the time I write they amount to nearly 7,000*l.*, the public exigencies continued to be such that measures have been since passed for abolishing all increases which had been made to salaries on account of length of service, and for reducing the incomes of the principal public officers to the standard of 1863, when the flush of prosperity springing out of the American Civil War led to general profuseness. And a further Act was passed for levying a heavy percentage on all the recipients of public money, whether in the shape of salary or pension.

Pensions.

23. In the pension list there has been an increase of 750*l.*, caused principally by the superannuation of an aged clergyman, who had been long in the service, and by retiring allowances to parties whose employment was discontinued under the Prospective Reduction Act.

Foreign Consuls.

24. In the consulates there were several changes. Mr. Kirkpatrick, who represented the United States, has been succeeded by Mr. Mablon Chance, a distinguished citizen of the Republic. Mr. M. Menendez has been appointed Spanish Consul, and Mr. T. Williams, Consul for the North German Confederation.

Population and Health.

25. The births and deaths in the three preceding years in a population of 35,000 have been:

Year.	Births.	Deaths.
1867 - -	1202 - -	739
1868 - -	1469 - -	718
1869 - -	1469 - -	706

26. These figures present a remarkable coincidence in the returns for 1868 and 1869, and yet in the latter year we had an epidemic which carried off a number of Europeans and Cubans, the latter of whom abounded in the place.

27. The sanitary condition of Nassau continues to be tolerably fair, and Grants Town, the chief residence of the labouring people, is improving under the auspices of the Board of Works, and with the assistance of a penal gang.

28. A new and stringent Quarantine Law has been enacted, more in conformity with the practice in other countries; and although cholera and yellow fever have been rife in the neighbourhood, and particularly in Cuba, the summer of 1870 has been peculiarly free from disease.

Ecclesiastical.

29. The Anglican Church returns about 4,000 as its attendance. The Wesleyan Church about 7,000; and the Baptists, 4,700. I have no reports from any of the ministers as to their work or progress.

Educational.

30. I continue the comparative statement of the number of schools and of children in attendance for the few past years:—

Date.	No. of Schools.	No. of Children on Books.	No. present at Examination.	Average Attendance.
1865 - -	30	2,047	1,016	1,004
1866 - -	37	2,877	1,528	1,715
1867 - -	No Report.			
1868 - -	39	3,032	2,011	2,014
1869 - -	38	3,130	2,135	2,137

31. The return shows a slight improvement in the attendance for 1869 on that of 1868, which latter, however, was a great increase as compared with 1866; and the Board of Education reports that "the general efficiency, discipline, and instruction are more "satisfactory than at any former period."

32. Favourable as these results are, the Board states that only about 40 per cent. of the children in the Colony nominally attend school, and an examination of the School registers shows that the average number of days per week attended by each child is little more than two, and that in many cases the children are absent from school for several weeks together. "The Board are of opinion that the only remedy for this unsatisfactory "state of things will be to make attendance compulsory as soon as, and wherever, "practicable."

33. The Act under which the Educational grant was reduced and fixed at 2,200*l.* per annum, and placed at the disposal of the Education Board, was brought into operation in the middle of 1869. Its effect has been to close two or three of the minor schools, and to reduce the salaries and allowances of several of the teachers at the out islands, but except in this one respect the course of education has not yet suffered by the new arrangement. On the contrary, one or two schools have been opened with success in more important districts. Yet it cannot be doubted, where the absence of properly-trained teachers is so seriously felt as it is here, their remuneration ought to be a primary consideration. The average cost of educating each child in 1869 was about 14*s.*, having been 1*l.* 12*s.* in 1868.

Monetary.

34. The receipts and payments of the Nassau Public Bank continue to show a falling off in the public business.

	Receipts.	Payments.
	£	£
1867 - -	778,110	829,125
1868 - -	541,301	561,569
1869 - -	420,786	410,734

35. All the promissory notes put into circulation in 1868 have been withdrawn excepting a very few, which it has not yet been possible to get hold of.

36. The specie in the Bank on the 31st of December, 1869, and on the same day of the two preceding years was:—

	1867.			1868.			1869.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gold, British - - -	3,900	0	0	1,859	0	0	1,473	0	0
„ American - - -	2,919	7	6	1,604	3	4	3,390	12	6
„ Spanish - - -	7,148	4	6	4,441	16	4	7,453	15	10
Silver, British American -	20,504	8	11	16,890	16	10	15,672	1	5
Total - -	34,472	0	11	24,795	17	6	27,989	9	9

Imports and Exports.

37. The following is the value of the imports and exports for the last four years:—

	Imports.	Exports.	
		Native Produce.	Other Exports.
	£	£	£
1866 - -	328,622	77,604	184,372
1867 - - -	365,316	71,117	156,131
1868 - -	231,526	80,146	51,376
1869 - - -	240,584	77,999	85,003

38. In the reported value of the native produce exported there was a slight decrease, but the return in the article of fruit is said to have been very remunerative. I am sorry that it will not be possible to make the same favourable report for 1870. The crop of pine-apples has not been so good as in former years, and the fruit vessels have made long passages.

39. The increase of upwards of 30,000*l.* in other exports is due to several valuable cargoes, principally of sugar, which were wrecked on the banks, saved, and sent home.

Wrecks.

40. The returns under this head since 1864 stand thus:—

	Total Wrecks.	Other Casualties.	Total.
1864 - -	48	19	67
1865 - -	30	31	61
1866 - -	63	31	94
1867 - -	29	21	50
1868 - -	17	30	47
1869 - -	26	19	45

41. The return continues to manifest a diminution in number as compared with years previous to 1868, but, as compared with that year, there was an increase in 1869 of the number of total wrecks, and a decrease in the number of lesser casualties.

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42. I continue the returns made in 1867 and 1868 of the number of vessels and men licensed for wrecking, though from the irregularity with which the licences are applied for, it affords no sure, though an apparent, indication of the decline of the pursuit:—

	1867.			1868.			1869.		
	No.	Tonnage.	Men.	No.	Tonnage.	Men.	No.	Tonnage.	Men.
New Providence - -	87	2,240	644	65	1,438	271	57	1,093	514
Abaco - - - -	15	282	136	18	362	406	7	75	61
Eleuthera - -	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harbor Island - - -	14	475	139	—	—	1	—	—	—
Long Island - - -	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long Cay - - - -	3	100	85	3	45	144	2	59	53
Inagua - - - -	1	25	43	1	35	14	4	93	23
Total - - -	120	3,122	1,049	87	1,880	836	70	1,320	651

Land, Agriculture, and Manufactures.

43. The Commissioner of Crown Lands reports that "the total number of acres of "crown land sold in the Bahamas during 1869 was 2,532, with a value of 1,433*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*" In 1867 the number of acres disposed of at public auction was 647; in 1868, 323. "The "total number of conveyances issued from the Surveyor General's office during the year "for lands sold in 1869 and previous years was 112, covering an acreage of 842½." The number issued in 1867 was 134, acreage 923½; in 1868, 161, acreage 1,322¾. Surveys have been made of 3,431 acres, at an expense of 242*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*, and nearly all the arrearage of surveys which had been long applied for, and paid for, is stated now to be nearly wiped off.

44. Notwithstanding the discouraging return of the present year and the general precarious character of the pine cultivation, large tracts of land have been lately purchased with the view of extending it. There has been an increase too in the produce and export of salt, but until the present prohibitory duty on its import into the United States of America is either considerably reduced or abolished, it cannot be expected that the cultivation of the article will be much further stimulated.

Crime and Pauperism.

45. The following return of prisoners tried in the Superior Court exhibits a very important decrease for the year 1869; but it is feared that the apprehension of offenders has not been commensurate with the number of offences committed.

	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.
Convicted -	46	45	37	17
Acquitted -	15	18	13	7

46. Subjoined is the report of the Police Magistrate of Nassau for the past year:—

"The number of cases tried at the police office during the year 1869 were 1,104.

"The number of convictions for that year were: males, 405; females, 279; total, 714; an increase of 22 over that of 1868.

"The majority of cases comprise common assaults and batteries and minor breaches of the peace, abuse, indecent language, &c.

"There were 110 convictions for larceny, chiefly of trifling value. The larceny of growing crops is getting frequent, and is a sore hindrance to the sustained industry of the honest planter. Their plantations are distant some few miles from their dwellings and wholly unprotected. During the then stagnation of trade, absence of employment, scarcity and dearness of provisions, the lazy and idle scoured these fields at night, and in many instances laid them waste. In the absence of a rural police there seemed to be no check to this serious evil, save in the severity of the punishment by the magistrate of those few who were detected and brought before him.

"The police are respected and obeyed, and are under the management of an able inspector; only two cases of gross misconduct were brought by the inspector before the magistrate.

"The attempts at incendiarism, so frequent and persistent in 1868, which gave rise to much fear for the safety of the city, were abandoned up to February, owing to the

extreme vigilance of the police force, aided by volunteers from the well-affected residents.

"Considering the distress which generally prevailed among all classes, the relation of poverty with crime, I consider it a matter of congratulation that the criminal statistics of the Colony for 1869 are so marked by the absence of the higher degrees of crime."

47. The amount expended in the relief of the poor was somewhat less than in former years.

	1867.	1868.	1869.
	£	£	£
In New Providence - -	1,931	1,901	1,664
In out islands - -	636	500	403
Total - - -	£2,567	£2,401	£2,067

48. The new prison is a capacious and commodious building, requiring, however, a boundary wall to complete it. It is maintained in a creditable state of cleanliness and discipline.

49. The prison rules were lately revised by the Governor in Council, when occasion was taken to introduce several amendments relative to the internal discipline of the establishment, to lengthen the hours of labour, and to place the direction of the penal labour more under the control of the executive.

Postal.

50. The communication by mail has not been carried out with the same uniform regularity as stated in last year's report. Two of the monthly steamers have lately arrived without the English mails, owing to the non-appearance of the Transatlantic vessel carrying them, and two other steamers on the passage from New York were considerably overdue.

51. Complaints continued to be made of the absence of facilities for landing passengers and receiving freight, and the Legislature at length addressed the Governor with a view of terminating the present contract and entering into a new one, which should secure a description of steamer adapted to coming into harbour, and there taking on board passengers and cargo, and so obviating their embarkation in the open sea outside the bar. The House of Assembly also expressed a strong desire for a fortnightly communication with the States, which they considered would be attended with great advantage to the Colony.

52. Advertisements were issued accordingly, calling for tenders for the service, in accordance with the wishes of the Legislature, and some were sent in at the prescribed time, which the Governor in Council, however, did not feel himself at liberty to accept in the present inability of the Colony to meet its other engagements.

53. Subsequently an offer was made by the American Mail Steamship Company to continue the present contract and to give us an additional mail once a-month for seven months of the year for a subsidy amounting in the whole to 7,000*l.* per annum, and this has been accepted by way of experiment.

54. The post office revenue in 1869 was 1,158*l.*, as to 790*l.* in 1868, and 625*l.* in 1867.

Out Islands.

55. Of all the out islands of the Bahamas, Inagua is by far the most interesting, whether regard be had to the enterprise and energy of its settlers, to its internal resources, or to its promise of a future. Annexed to this Despatch is a report (omitting passages of a controversial character) which I obtained from the resident magistrate who was appointed to the office in 1869, and whose intelligence, activity, and usefulness have been highly appreciated by the people.

56. Long Island, in former times the most productive and wealthy of the Bahamas, is now in a melancholy state of decadence, as your Lordship will perceive from the enclosed report, which was called for in the spring of the year from the resident magistrate.

General.

57. The financial condition of the Colony is decidedly better than at the date of last year's report. But if your Lordship will be good enough again to glance at the figures

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in the 9th paragraph of this Despatch, you will be able to see the sacrifice at which the improvement has been accomplished. An amount of 28,000*l.* suddenly withdrawn from circulation in a small community like that of New Providence must have a sensible effect upon the general prosperity of the place, and when the reductions which have been effected are known to have extended, not only to individual incomes, but to the supplies for the public service, it is scarcely reasonable to expect that there should exist a feeling of contentment, either with the Government or the Legislature.

58. I think too that I see an improvement among the labouring class. Many of them are certainly beginning to discern the necessity of turning their attention to occupations which will afford a more reliable return than either blockade running or wrecking, and every encouragement is being given to settle and cultivate the land, poor as it is. Two great difficulties intervene. The people show, in the first place, a decided predilection for Andros Island, where from its extreme unhealthiness it is difficult to provide them with proper official superintendence, and, next, in all the Islands, Andros included, they scatter themselves over the country, and cannot be induced to congregate and so be brought under some teaching or exemplary influences. When any objection is made to giving them the land for which they apply in isolated spots, and they are exhorted to settle down in the neighbourhood of their fellow-men, they refuse to listen, and a denial of their application, I am assured, would only result in squatting.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, (Signed) JAS. WALKER.
&c. &c. &c.

SIR, Mathew Town, Inagua, April 27, 1870.

ON entering upon the task of reporting upon the "condition and prospects" of this Island, in obedience to the desire of his Excellency the Governor, it may be proper to premise that the duties of Resident Justice of this Island were only assumed by me on the 1st of September last, my labours in this Colony having been principally devoted to the magisterial oversight of the district of Abaco, to which I was originally appointed in May, 1860, by his late Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

Inagua is the most southern of the Bahama group of islands, its area being about 339,000 acres, and although settled many years before the emancipation of slavery in the British West India Colonies, and the labours of its inhabitants devoted to the cultivation of cotton, of grain, and other provisions, the raising of stock and the production of salt, it was afterwards, from various causes, almost entirely abandoned.

In 1848 it was resettled by several enterprising persons possessing adequate capital for reviving the production of salt, and Mathew Town, the present capital, was formed with great care and judgment, and is, at least, equal to any of the outlying townships in the Colony.

The streets were laid out at right angles, and are somewhat spacious, the lots being extensive and generally well enclosed with stone. The dwelling-houses are lofty and roomy, and of respectable appearance.

Mathew Town is situate at the western part of the Island, and is the port of entry, having a very bold and extensive roadstead with excellent holding ground, but from its exposure to the influence of westerly winds is sometimes inconveniently rough, rendering it necessary for the shipping, and especially the smaller description of vessels, to remove to the southern part of the Island, where safe anchorage is afforded within an adjacent reef.

This inconvenience, however, is only occasionally experienced during the winter months, as the prevailing winds during the other seasons are from north-east to south-east.

The inhabitants, which numbered 994 in 1861, the date of last census, but which number has gradually increased, principally reside in Mathew Town, measures not having yet been adopted for effecting the agricultural and grazing advantages which the interior and northern parts of the Island are said to be well calculated to afford.

Capital and labour are at present applied to the manufacture of salt, the natural resources for the production of which article are very extensive, rendering it the main staple for export, and which is principally conveyed to the shipping places by means of large cars drawn by mules over two well-concreted tramways, about five miles in extent, and which were laid by private companies.

The characteristic energy of the proprietors and lessees of the salt ponds has been unfortunately restrained by the protective duty of 18 cents per 100 lbs. imposed on

imported salt by the Government of the United States of America, the several markets in which had previously afforded remunerative prices. Were the demand more general, and the price enhanced, Inagua would, with adequate labour, be capable of the manufacture and export of 1,500,000 bushels in each well-circumstanced year, as regards season.

The geographical position of the Island qualifies it for considerable commerce and profitable intercourse, owing to the numerous vessels which pass daily between this and the Island of Cuba on their voyaging to Europe and America from St. Thomas, Hayti, Jamaica, and other places lying eastward and southward, availing themselves of the safe conduct of the light exhibited on Castle Island, many of which frequently anchor in our roadstead seeking freight, provisions, or water, or for the purpose of avoiding the toil and inconvenience of a head wind.

During the fall of each year, European and American vessels from Hayti, bound homeward, are wont to call in seeking medical aid, or to recruit their crews, from the effects of malignant fever which so generally prevails at several of its ports, but from which we are happily exempt on this Island. Men are sometimes, on such occasions, shipped at this port to supply the places of those who have died at Hayti.

The exhibition of the light lately placed, and now in admirably effective operation on the south-west point of this Island, will greatly promote the safety of the navigation through this passage, and increase such stoppage, and the consequent promotion of trade.

The quantity of salt exported last year was very limited, owing to the injurious effect of the heavy rains in 1867, which inundated the pans and cast into the reservoir a large amount of vegetable matter detrimentally affecting the brine, and of consequence the quality and quantity of the salt; 489,267 bushels were exported in 1867, and only 203,376 bushels in 1869.

A difference of opinion having existed between the proprietors and lessees as to the best means of remedying the evil, and restoring the pickle to its former purity and productiveness, the reservoir remained undisturbed until the 14th ultimo, when a public meeting of the parties interested was held, over which the Resident Justice was invited to preside, and the matter being fully and dispassionately discussed, it was resolved that the canal leading from the reservoir into the sea, which had been for some time closed, should be immediately opened for the admission of pure sea-water and for the escape of the impurities contained in the reservoir.

A Committee for the management of the affairs of the Pond was appointed from among the proprietors and lessees, the Resident Justice being chairman, with authority to impose such rates upon the acreage of the ponds and the quantity of salt shipped as may be found necessary for defraying the expense of cleansing the reservoir and of repairing and maintaining the bridges and roads in connection with the ponds.

The introduction of water from the sea, and the outlet of the impurities connected with the brine, in tidal succession, have already had the effect of improving the quality of the brine, and affords the prospect of future successful operation.

* * * * * * * * * *

The revenue of the Island, although greatly decreased because of the reduced number of wrecked vessels, is still very considerable in proportion to the number of the inhabitants, and is attributable to the absence of agriculture, which involves the importation and consumption of foreign productions subject to duty.

The customs receipts for the past year amounted to 1,944*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, being about 900*l.* in excess of the local expenditure for the same period.

The revenue thus locally collected is not, however, a correct indication of the contributions of the inhabitants to the general revenue of the Colony, as the greater portion of the articles consumed by them in the way of food, clothing, and other personal and domestic necessaries is obtained from Nassau, and the revenue is placed to the credit of that city, although the duties are obviously paid by the consumers.

From the extent of the local traffic in these commodities, the duties collected on them in Nassau may be fairly estimated as being equal in amount to the sum total of the direct revenue.

Could these supplies be obtained from abroad by means of improved fiscal regulations as regards tonnage dues, the profits on importation would be wholly realized by the merchants resident in the Island, whilst the community would be benefited by their attainment at lower prices, and the revenue enhanced by increased consumption.

The Crown receipts arising from the sale of lands last year amounted to 10*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, and the royalty on the export of salt by lessees and other non-proprietors for the same period amounts to 132*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

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The revenue of the Island has been diminished by the operation of the amended "Licensed Vessels Act" (29 Vic. c. 16), the first section of which enacts that "no person "of any age who is not a mariner by profession shall be licensed to be employed in "wrecking," and the 2nd section interdicts the licensing of "decked boats or vessels "under five tons burthen, and of open boats of any size," whilst the 15th section of the same Act confirms the proviso contained in the 1st section of the "Licensed Vessels "Act, 1858" (21 Vic. c. 1), authorizing the employment of unlicensed persons, vessels, and boats, in the absence of licensed persons, vessels, or boats, or of a sufficient number of them to render efficient and timely aid to vessels wrecked, stranded, or imperilled.

This provision has had the effect of preventing applications for licences, and small vessels and open boats conducted by unlicensed persons are numerously and profitably employed in the salving of wrecked property without the expense of licences imposed on and paid by those of larger class.

There is a public school in Mathew Town with a very efficient teacher who is a native of England, and was trained in the Borough Road College in London, and holds satisfactory certificates of competency. He took charge of the school late in the past year, and the average attendance is about 85 children and youth of both sexes.

The local expenditure of revenual, judicial, and religious purposes has been retrenched by the operation of the Act 32 Vic. c. 13, since the 1st inst.

The present annual expenditure for magisterial and other purposes is:—

	£	s.	d.
Resident Justice, Collector, &c.	277	10	0
Allowance for boat	20	0	0
Tide waiter	95	15	2
Incumbent of Episcopal Church	142	10	0
Allowance for house-rent	20	0	0
Public school teacher	100	0	0
Two 2nd-class constables	70	0	0
Maintenance and superintendence of prisoners, say	60	0	0
Aid to and burial of paupers, say	70	0	0
Pension to late collector of revenue	70	0	0
Making together about	£925	15	2

The moral condition of the humbler, I cannot say working class, is not the most satisfactory.

By some rule, which does not obtain in the other salt-producing Islands of the Colony, women do not labour in the ponds, or in the export of salt. A few are employed as clotheswashers and domestic servants, whilst very many are idle, and of consequence live disreputably.

The male labourers are exposed to undue allurement, and but too many, I regret to add, are dissipated and immoral in their habits.

It is proper, however, to remark that larceny is happily not frequent, and notwithstanding the slender means possessed by the magistracy for the support of their authority in the administration of the law, a respect for law and order generally prevails.

The provision made for the relief of the poor is by no means adequate to their necessities, there is not any house in the way of asylum, and their own huts or habitations are sadly inapposite and uncomfortable.

The indigent sick have no legislative provision for their relief on the Island other than the occasional furnishing of medicine for administration by the Resident Justice, there not being a medical practitioner resident on the Island.

The policemen, prisoners, and indigent sick are entirely dependent for medical aid upon the gratuitous services of the Resident Justice, and upon the benevolent efforts of certain respectable members of the community.

The gaol is substantial but not roomy, and needs improved ventilation. * * *

A kitchen is required on the premises, as well as a residence for the gaoler.

The political aspect of the Island is, unfortunately, gloomy, and great dissatisfaction is expressed with regard to the present unprecedented state of the Colony in relation to its finances and general legislation.

The Election Act awards but one representative to this Island, and the system pursued of holding only one annual session of our Colonial Parliament, which, not unfrequently, is held continuously in Nassau for the space of four months, precludes the representation of Inagua and the other out islands by other than persons residing in Nassau, whereby

arises a confliction of interests which operates prejudicially to those of the out islands.

The present representative of Inagua having large interests at stake in the Island has lately removed from Nassau and become resident here.

He went to Nassau in January last, about three weeks after the opening of the Session of the Legislature in December, and from the nature of his business here, and the claims of his family, he was constrained to leave Nassau for this place on the 1st March, and has not therefore had any part in the subsequent proceedings of the House of Assembly.

Were the House of Assembly dissolved because of the disastrous state of affairs, it is very questionable whether he would again consent to be elected, and in which case the electors would probably make no return.

These facts go far to establish peculiar claims in their behalf on the wisdom and justice of the Imperial Government, and the electors would hail with unbounded satisfaction the intervention of legislation under its immediate and salutary control.

The principal inhabitants of Inagua are characterized by intelligence and liberality of sentiment, and openly express their dissent with regard to the late acts of the Legislature.

* * * * * * * * *

They advocate and would cheerfully submit to a well-considered and equitably adjusted measure for the taxation of property throughout the Colony, in order to the liquidation of its debts, and the due maintenance of its institutions.

The establishment of a municipal corporation with suitable powers would be a boon of no ordinary value to the inhabitants of this Island, and would greatly conduce to their comfort and prosperity. Measures would be adopted in accordance with local circumstances, and the commercial advantages of the Island would be so fostered as to promote alike both its trade and its revenue.

There is sufficient capital and extensive warehouses, and were the affairs of the Island more immediately directed by the intelligence and enterprise of its merchants and others of the community, its importance would, it is believed, be so enhanced, as to render it a useful, although humble, appendage of the British Crown.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary, (Signed) JS. NIBBS BROWN,
Nassau, N. P. Resident Justice, Inagua.

SIR, Clarence Town, Long Island, February 19, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to avail myself of the first opportunity after my return from the middle and north districts of this Island, of reporting for the information of his Excellency the Governor the result of my observations, and in doing so, there is little that can be stated with respect to the population, resources, industrial employment, productions, and general condition, social, educational, and religious, which would not probably be a repetition of statements contained in reports of my predecessors.

The population, as per last census, was put down at 2,571 souls, and are scattered throughout the entire length of the Island, which is estimated to be 70 or 80 miles by land. The average width may be fixed at 2½ miles.

About two-thirds of the population are of the black and coloured race, all are engaged to a greater or less extent in agricultural pursuits, and with few exceptions all are poor, and seem satisfied with the commonest necessaries, but when their crops of Indian and Guinea corn, and other produce fail them through drought, they are reduced to much distress. But this may not be. If they were, and they ought to be, more industrious—they would be better prepared to meet a dry season. There is no system adopted for assisting and fertilizing exhausted or much-used land. The demand for hired labour is not to any considerable extent, as the larger proprietors prefer having their land worked on shares. Field labourers obtain: women 1*s.*, men 1*s.* 6*d.* per day. Salt Pond labourers, 2*s.* The crops of corn and other produce of last year were, I am glad to say, considered good and satisfactory.

The cultivation of cotton, probably the most profitable of Bahama agricultural productions, was revived in the year 1864 by a company composed of Colonial and American gentlemen with a large capital; but in the year 1869 the company was dissolved in consequence of the heavy losses sustained from the appearance of the cotton bug, a most destructive insect, but there are reasons to think their want of success arose as much from the extravagant way in which their operations were commenced, and I may say continued. They employed some 60 or 70 American or Irish labourers at

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enormous wages, who could not and did not, as I am informed, perform any adequate amount of work, as they were unable to resist the heat of a tropical sun. Native labour could have been obtained at one-half the cost. However, the company's operations encouraged and stimulated alike the small and large landed proprietor to enter into the branch of industry, and cotton was planted throughout the Island.

The dissolution of the company in 1869, however, discouraged the people generally, and the cultivation of this staple article was discontinued by a great many, but notwithstanding it is still carried on, but to what extent I am unable at present to say, from the want of accurate data. I am, however, glad to think there is a strong inclination and determination on the part of many to persevere, and of some to begin.

I concur in the general opinion that the land is not capable of producing more than 150 lbs. cleaned cotton to the acre.

There is one road that runs through the Island, and more on the south than on the north side; and the settlements are on its margin, excepting two, which are on the north side, *viz.* "Sim's Settlements" (North district) and "Clarence Town" (South district). There is another road which leads from this town to the south side, to what is called "Galloway Landing," and which is most useful to small vessels landing their passengers and freight, when they cannot conveniently or as quickly come round to Clarence Town Harbour on the north side. This harbour is a very excellent one, and vessels drawing not more than 16 feet water can ride at anchor with safety therein.

The raising of cattle and sheep on the Island has always been a source of employment and profit to those engaged in it.

There are four Salt Ponds at this township (Magisterial Head Quarters) which are worked by three gentlemen, Messieurs. Taylor and Mr. Edwin Rahming, three I think of which have never been found profitable to the proprietors. The chief and only really good pond is "Chancery Pond," and is mainly worked by Mr. Rahming, and in good seasons is very productive. Last year 69,666 bushels of salt were sent to the United States, the product of that pond that year. The "Lock-up" at the North district requires whitewashing, it leaks very badly, and this may be done at a cost of about 13*l.*

No crime has been committed during the five months I have been here.

In conclusion, I regret my inability to report any improvement in the material condition of the inhabitants since I quitted the district some eight or nine years ago; neither can I in a moral, intellectual, or educational point of view, and I am sorry to add there is no evidence that in these respects the mass of the people have not retrograded.

* * * * * * * * * *

There are several local Baptist preachers. * * *

There is one airy and commodious church building in this town, but the incumbent, the Rev. Mr. Crowther, informs me he is expected to visit periodically the various districts of the Island and also the exumas.

The advantages which the inhabitants have hitherto had and still have, are one Government school, and the occassional visits of a competent Minister of religion.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. H. PINDER,
Police Magistrate.

Hon. G. Strahan,
Colonial Secretary, Nassau.

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No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LONGDEN to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 209.)

MY LORD, Trinidad, December 9, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of Trinidad for the year 1869.

2. Not having arrived in the Colony until late in the present year, I propose to limit my present report to a few remarks suggested by the enclosed Tables.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue collected in 1869 was the largest yet raised in a single year. It amounted to 244,055*l.*, showing an increase of 29,571*l.* over the revenue of 1868.

4. The improvement was perceptible in almost every branch of the revenue, but chiefly in the customs, the increase in which was 15,017*l.*

5. There was an increase of 2,996*l.* in the amount of the funds raised especially for immigration funds. This increase would have been greater still if the rate of export duty on sugar had remained the same, but it was reduced from 3*s.* per hogshead in 1868 to 2*s.* 6*d.* per hogshead in 1869.

6. The sales of Crown lands in 1869 amounted to 2,276*l.*, against 748*l.* in 1868. This considerable increase is the result of the improvement recently effected by Governor Gordon in the management of the Crown lands.

7. The income tax shows an increase of 6,235*l.* A large part of this sum is not an absolute increase in the yield of the tax, but consists of arrears from the previous year collected in 1869.

8. The wharf dues collected in 1869 amounted to 9,269*l.*, being an increase of 2,664*l.* on those of 1868. As the rates remained unaltered, the increase is entirely the result of an extended trade.

9. The expenditure of 1869 was 234,791*l.*, being an increase of 35,678*l.* over the expenditure of 1868.

10. Of this increase the sum of 6,455*l.* occurs under the head of the "Guaranteed Loan," the payments in 1868 being 3,197*l.*, and in 1869, 9,652*l.* This apparent increase is a mere matter of account, one half-yearly payment only being included in the accounts of 1868, and three half-yearly payments in the accounts of 1869.

11. The expenditure upon immigration increased from 38,850*l.* in 1868 to 56,714*l.* in 1869, being a difference of 17,864*l.* This difference is also to some extent mere matter of account, dependent upon the number of immigrant ships arriving before or after the 31st of December in each year.

12. There was an increase in the expense of the establishments of 2,713*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*; of 4,564*l.* in the cost of the hospitals; and of 2,922*l.* in the item of police, the latter arising from the augmentation of the Force.

13. The cost of Public Works increased from 5,206*l.* in 1868 to 10,279*l.* in 1869. The principal buildings on which the increased sum was expended were the new police office and barracks in Port of Spain, 2,561*l.*; the telegraph between Port of Spain and San Fernando, 530*l.*; a rectory in St. Philip's parish, 800*l.*; certain improvements at the hospital, which cost 1,063*l.*; and the Leper Asylum, on which 700*l.* was expended. The other works were ordinary repairs of the usual character.

14. In accordance with the Resolutions of the Legislative Council, the expenditure upon roads was greatly increased in 1869, reaching 8,145*l.*, being an increase of 6,100*l.* on the expenditure of the previous year.

15. The item of interest shows an increase of 4,472*l.* This increase is a mere matter of account, arising from only six months' interest on the Guaranteed Loan being charged in the accounts of 1868, and eighteen months' interest in 1869.

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16. The general financial position of the Colony on the 31st of December, 1869, was sufficiently satisfactory, the Auditor-General's return of assets and liabilities showing a net balance in favour of the Colony of 37,639*l.*

17. In addition to the general revenue and expenditure of the Colony, there is a large local expenditure for roads, education, vaccination, the relief of the poor, and other local purposes. This expenditure is defrayed by rates levied in the boroughs of Port of Spain and San Fernando, and in the several wards of the Island. The total amount of the local revenues so raised in 1869 was 46,504*l.*, and the expenditure amounted to 46,281*l.*

Trade.

18. The imports of 1869 were valued at 920,607*l.* This value is less by 7,189*l.*, than the value of Imports in 1868, but is considerably more than the average amount of Imports in each of the nine years, 1860–68, which is only 832,210*l.*

19. Rather more than a third part of the Imports (368,736*l.*) was imported directly from the United Kingdom; the value of 236,685*l.* was imported from various British possessions; the value of 169,044*l.* from the United States; 84,135*l.* from France and the French West Indies; 33,287*l.* from the neighbouring states of Venezuela, exclusive of gold, and 26,719*l.* from other foreign countries or their colonies.

20. The exports of 1869 were valued at 1,381,282*l.*, of which 1,118,695*l.* was the estimated value of the produce of Trinidad. This appears to be the highest value yet attained. It exceeds the exports of 1868 by 265,034*l.*, and it exceeds the average value of the exports between 1860 and 1868 by 576, 919*l.*

21. This increase is mainly the consequence of extended cultivation, whereby the annual production of sugar has been increased from 540,768 cwts. in 1860 to 929,365 cwts. It will be seen from the following Table that the export of 1869 exceeded the average of the preceding nine years by 34 per cent.

	Cwts.
In 1860 the export was	540,768
„ 1861 „ „	549,464
„ 1862 „ „	738,117
„ 1863 „ „	668,255
„ 1864 „ „	706,246
„ 1865 „ „	560,166
„ 1866 „ „	813,339
„ 1867 „ „	828,116
„ 1868 „ „	830,708

Average of the nine years, 692,803 cwts.; export of 1869, 929,365 cwts. I have quoted the quantities exported as a surer indication of the progress of the Colony than the value, which fluctuates, not only according to the quality of the sugar, but also according to the influences affecting the price of sugar in the markets of the world.

22. In cacao, the second great staple production of the Colony, there is more of fluctuation, and although the export of 1869 was (as will be seen from the following Table) slightly in excess of the average export of the last nine years, it was considerably less than the exports of 1861, 1863, 1865, 1867, or 1868.

	Cwts.
In 1860 the export was	31,928
„ 1861 „ „	58,311
„ 1862 „ „	34,368
„ 1863 „ „	61,868
„ 1864 „ „	45,446
„ 1865 „ „	60,359
„ 1866 „ „	48,823
„ 1867 „ „	66,829
„ 1868 „ „	67,990

Average of the nine years, 52,880 cwts. Export of 1869, 55,892 cwts.

23. The value of the sugar, molasses, and rum exported in 1869 was 978,260*l.*, and

the value of cacao grown in the Colony and exported was 130,417*l.* The other exports, the produce of the Colony, were valued in all at 10,010*l.*, the principal article being asphalt, the produce of the Pitch Lake, of which the value exported was 4,629*l.*

24. The exports, *not* the produce of the Colony, were valued at 262,537*l.* The principal article was gold, of which 28,304 ounces, valued at 106,622*l.*, were imported from Venezuela, and re-exported, chiefly to Great Britain. The other exports were either manufactured goods exported to Venezuela, or produce imported from South America for re-exportation.

25. The trade with the neighbouring continent might become exceedingly valuable, if it could be carried on with any fair degree of safety or security, but it is almost totally interrupted at present by the political troubles which have divided the States of Venezuela into hostile factions.

Hospitals.

26. The actual daily average number of patients in the Port of Spain Hospital in 1869 was 195·59-100. The total number admitted during the year, including those in hospital on the 1st of January, 1869, was 2,119. Of these 1,554 were discharged cured, 156 were relieved, 204 died, and 207 remained in the hospital at the close of the year.

27. In the Colonial Hospital at San Fernando the daily average of patients was 79. The total number admitted, including those remaining at the close of the year 1868, was 671. Of these 453 were discharged cured or relieved, 147 died, and 71 remained in the hospital on the 31st December, 1869.

28. It will be seen that the mortality in the San Fernando Hospital was greatly in excess of that in the Port of Spain Hospital. The death rate in the latter hospital was only 10·66 per cent., but in the San Fernando Hospital it was 23·33 per cent. The cause of this very great difference is not apparent. The Port of Spain Hospital is certainly a splendid building, and was described some years ago by an impartial witness as "not surpassed in America."* It has an unlimited supply of water, and is surrounded with flower-gardens; but it is situate in the town, and on a comparatively flat site. The Hospital at San Fernando is a spacious and airy edifice, with broad galleries, built on the summit of a hill accessible to every breeze, and supplied with almost all the requisites of a hospital. The water supply being dependent on rain collected during the wet season in iron tanks, is occasionally limited in the dry weather. This, however, only takes place for at most a few weeks, and does not account for the greatly increased mortality, which I propose to bring under the consideration of the Surgeon-General on his arrival. The supply of water to San Fernando Hospital will, no doubt, be ample when the intended waterworks for supplying the town are complete, but, in the meanwhile, I have thought it right to propose the construction of another tank.

29. My attention was especially drawn by Earl Granville, immediately after my arrival, to the state of the public hospitals and asylums, and I was directed, in transmitting the annual returns, to advert to any points in which their condition and management shall appear to vary from that which has been recommended as proper and desirable, and to report the reasons for such variations, if not already reported, and also any steps which may be in progress or in contemplation for effecting improvement.

30. The staff of the Port of Spain Hospital is at present incomplete. By an Ordinance passed in 1869, No. 5, two departments are created, the "Medical" and the "Non-"medical." The Medical department consists of a Consulting Physician, a Consulting Surgeon, a House Surgeon, and a Dispenser and Assistant-Dispenser. The Surgeon-General is ex-officio the Consulting Surgeon. That office has been vacant since the death of Dr. Dasent in March last. Your Lordship has recently authorized the appointment of an Assistant-Surgeon, which is much needed.

31. The Non-medical department is placed by the Ordinance under the charge of a master, who is now called the "Colonial Storekeeper." He performs the duties usually assigned to stewards of hospitals, examining, superintending, and controlling the receipt and issue of all stores and provisions, except medicines or surgical instruments, which are under the sole control of the medical authorities.

32. By the 11th clause of the Ordinance, the Rules and Regulations made by the Governor and Council in 1860 remain in force, until they are revoked or altered. The

* Sewell's 'Free Labour in British West Indies,' 1862.

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Rules of 1860 vest the "management" of the Hospital in a Board, and in this respect appear to be inconsistent with the purely executive control established by the Ordinance. In some other respects, also, the Rules require revision to suit the present circumstances of the Colony. It is therefore advisable that a new set of Rules should be drawn up for the government of the hospital, more in accordance with recent legislation and with the suggestions contained in the paper on hospitals of January, 1864. I should be glad, in the consideration of the new Rules, to have the assistance of the Surgeon-General, and I have therefore delayed the preparation of them for the present.

33. Rules for the Government of the San Fernando Hospital were passed in 1863. By these Rules a Board is established for the management of this hospital, by whom all requisition for stores must be approved. The executive officers of the hospital are the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Finlay, a dispenser, and a clerk, with the requisite number of nurses and servants. By an Ordinance lately passed, No. 5, of 1870, the superintendence of the purchase and issue of stores, provisions, &c., for this hospital is committed to the Colonial Storekeeper, and the Rules of the San Fernando Hospital should be amended in this and other respects accordingly.

34. The Lunatic Asylum is, I regret to say, much too small for the number of patients, who averaged daily 81 in 1869; 11 patients were discharged last year cured, 4 were discharged relieved, and 6 died. The new ward which, on the representation of the crowded state of the asylum, your Lordship authorized me to build, is in course of construction, and I hope will soon be completed, as the number of patients continues to increase, and has risen now to 100.

35. The Leper Asylum at Cocorite has been so recently and fully reported upon by Governor Gordon, that I need only express my satisfaction at the order and cleanliness of the Institution, and my sense of the kindness and attention shown to the unfortunate sufferers by the religious ladies who have undertaken the duty of nurses.

36. These meagre remarks cannot supply the place of the full report which I have been called upon to furnish upon the hospitals and asylums of the Colony, but they may perhaps serve to indicate the principal points in the present administration of the hospital to which my attention was drawn. Before preparing the more detailed and comprehensive report which I am to furnish on the subject, I desire to avail myself of the Reports and information which the Surgeon-General will be able to furnish me, when he has arrived and made himself thoroughly acquainted with the state and condition of the hospitals and medical establishments which will be under his general superintendence.

Conclusion.

37 I have omitted in this report all reference to population, education, immigration, the administration of justice, the settlement of Crown lands, the gradual extinction of squatting, and other subjects of very great importance to the Island, in many of which great alterations and improvements were effected or commenced by my predecessor. These will be more fully reported upon next year, when, with the aid of the information to be derived from the census and with the greater experience of the Colony I shall then have acquired, I may hope to offer a more satisfactory report than I am at present able to do.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. R. LONGDEN,
Governor.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

BARBADOS.

No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor RAWSON, C.B., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 118.)

MY LORD, Windward Islands, Barbados, September 15, 1870.

I LOSE no time, after the completion of the Blue Book for the past year, 1869, in transmitting a copy to your Lordship, together with my report upon its contents.

2. The year 1869 began, and continued for nearly one-third of its span, as the preceding year had ended. The drought still lasted, and of course its effects became aggravated. The average sugar-crops of the three years (seasons) 1866–68, had been 55,580 hogsheads, that of 1869 threatened to be less than half. The unencumbered planters looked forward uneasily to a profitless year; the indebted and unmoneyed planters, and they form a majority, had to face not only a total loss of income, but an increase of their debt.

The parched condition of the soil, the emaciated state of the cattle, and the crippled means of the planters combined to check the demand for labour. The usual food crops had been cut off by the drought. Happily a large supply of bread-stuffs from the United States, which were retailed at moderate prices, supplied the place of the native crops. Petty thefts, however, multiplied greatly, and the number of prisoners in the gaols was considerably increased. Much gloom, some depression existed up to the end of April, but, fortunately, no catastrophe. Then the drought broke up, and gradually hope revived, the condition of the people improved, agricultural activity was renewed, and the crisis was past.

3. The summer proved highly favourable for the root crops; the yield was unusually large, and the price correspondingly low. Food became abundant and cheap. Distress and field plunder ceased, and the labouring population found employment at the usual time in field labour, and in making the sugar-crop.

4. This however proved, as was expected, a very short one. It yielded only 32,150 hogsheads, being 23,430 hogsheads, or 42 per cent., less than the average of the three preceding years, and 26,100 hogsheads, equal to 45 per cent., less than the single year 1868.

5. The above formed the principal features of the year's record. Major Mundy surrendered the Government to his successor on the 22nd April. The Council and Assembly continued in a state of disunion up to the annual dissolution of the latter. A Superintendent of Public Works arrived, and for a while it was hoped that the cause of strife, the question of the new bridge, was settled. But the session closed and the year ended without any practical decision being arrived at. I shall now proceed to report on the several details of the Blue Book.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

6. No change was made during the year. A Bill was introduced to revise and renew the customs tariff, but this did not pass until March, 1870.

Revenue and Expenditure.

7. Considering the strain upon the resources of the people during the greater part of the year, the revenue fell off less than might have been expected. The gross receipts of the years 1867–9 stood thus:—

	£
1867	98,347
1868	105,545
1869	102,606

8. After deducting the amount levied expressly, and set apart, for the purpose of erecting new public buildings, the receipts of the three years were:—

	£
1867	98,347
1868	99,305
1869	94,047

BARBADOS.

9. The additional Customs duty of 20 per cent. levied for the above purpose, first imposed in April, 1868, yielded in each year—

	£
1868	6,240
1869	8,559
Total	14,799

Of which, after expending 7,035*l.*, chiefly in the purchase of land as a site, there remained at the close of 1869, 7,764*l.*

10. The falling off in the revenue of 1869, as compared with 1868, occurred chiefly under the following heads:—

	£
Customs	1,415
Tonnage	981
Rum duty	1,680
Water-rate	816

11. The balance in the Treasurer's hands and Colonial Bank at the close of the two last years was—

	£
1868	16,986
1869	14,111

Showing a moderate decrease of 2,875*l.*

12. The expenditure of the last three years, exclusive of that out of the Public Buildings Fund, was—

	£
1867	99,783
1868	93,346
1869	97,298

13. After deducting the extraordinary expenditure under the three heads of Molehead Department, and Militia, which fell to a trifling amount in 1869, and of Public Roads and Buildings, which increased considerably in that year, the ordinary expenditure of the Colony in the three years stood thus:—

	£
1867	89,608
1868	87,987
1869	88,605

Local Revenues.

14. The accounts of the several vestries, who are charged with the relief of the poor, do not exhibit much variation from the preceding year, the revenue having increased from 18,700*l.* to 20,841*l.*, and the expenditure from 19,773*l.* to 20,529*l.*, the latter being less than 4 per cent.

15. In the present year there is inserted a return of the nature and amount of the taxes levied by the Commissioners of Roads in the several country districts. The amount levied in the year commencing 1st April, 1869, was 6,911*l.*, which with 5,500*l.* granted annually by the Legislature for this service, makes a total of 12,411*l.* expended on it.

16. I would here point out that the direct taxation levied by the vestries and Road Commissioners amounts to about 27,000*l.*, which is equal to 26 per cent. of the general revenue of the Colony, and by no means an insignificant or unfelt addition to the burthen of taxation, though it does not figure in the public accounts.

Public Debt.

17. None. Balance of general revenue at close of 1869, 14,111*l.* Balance of Public Buildings Fund, 7,764*l.*

Military Expenditure.

18. There was a slight increase in the expenditure incurred by Her Majesty's Government for military establishments in 1869, as compared with 1868, viz.:—

	£
1868	87,428
1869	90,887

Of this, 2,199*l.* was on account of works and buildings.

19. The militia having been disbanded, upon the repeal of the Acts under which they were enrolled, the expenditure in 1869 was limited to 9*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* for cleaning arms.

Public Works.

20. A Superintendent of Public Works was appointed, and arrived in the Colony in the month of June. During the year 11,982*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* was expended, but being distributed under different heads in the accounts, the full amount does not appear in the Blue Book returns. The above amount included :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For arrears of Molehead Board accounts	3,678	15	3
Hospital for Contagious Diseases	2,207	15	5
Land for site of Lunatic Asylum	1,879	0	7
Repairs to various public buildings	4,217	3	6

Legislation.

21. The principal Acts passed in the year 1869 were :—

1. To give Ecclesiastical authority to the Bishop Coadjutor.
2. To amend the Law relating to Wills.
3. To provide for the more easy and speedy recovery of Petty Debts.
4. To amend the Law providing for the establishment of the Electric Telegraph.
5. To provide increased accommodation at the General Hospital.

Political Franchise.

22. At the annual General Election in November no seat was contested. The number of electors in the whole island is 1,386. The population at the census of 1861 was 152,727.

Councils and Assembly.

23. No change in the Council, and only three in the Assembly.

Population.

24. The drought and impoverished condition of the population appear to have had some influence in causing a decrease of births, but not an increase of deaths. It may be inferred that the sanitary condition of the population was good throughout the year.

BAPTISMS.

In 1867	6,101
1868	6,563
1869	6,359

MARRIAGES.

In 1867	497
1868	637
1869	603

DEATHS.

In 1867	2,857
1868	3,924
1869	3,852

BARBADOS.

25. Ten years having now elapsed since the census of 1861, a calculation may be made of the increase of the population since that period. The excess of births over deaths in 1861–9 has been 31,161, or at the rate of 3,000 a year, and the aggregate population at the present time, diminished somewhat perhaps by an excess of emigration over immigration, would be 183,888. Allowing for such excess, it can scarcely fall short of 180,000. The area of the island is 106,000 acres. The number of inhabitants therefore is 17 to 10 acres, or about 1,084 to a square mile. The approaching census will perhaps awaken the Legislature to a sense of the social and physical evils which exist, and of the still greater dangers which are ever imminent, owing to the increasing density of the population, in an island almost wholly dependent upon agriculture. The ample supply of water in Bridgetown is a boon, the value of which cannot be over-rated.

26. Among the baptisms, 3,755, or nearly three-fifths (58 per cent.), were of illegitimate children. This, however, only shows that a large proportion of the labouring population has not yet learned to appreciate the value and moral obligation of the marriage tie.

Education.

27. The number of schools aided by the Government, and of scholars, enumerated in the Blue Book is as follows:—

	Schools.	Scholars.
Public and Church of England	127	10,494
Wesleyan	5	366
Moravian	16	1,505
Total	148	12,365

28. The Legislature has shown a disposition to encourage the establishment, and to aid in the maintenance, of middle schools, which is likely to bear good fruit next year.

Trade and Shipping.

29. I would deprecate any positive inference from a comparison of the Returns of 1869 with those of previous years, which cannot be depended on; but, as far as the figures show, they indicate the effects of the short crop of sugar in 1869.

TOTAL VALUE OF IMPORTS.

	£
In 1867	989,503
1868	1,134,257
1869	1,026,220

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS.

	£
In 1867	1,245,501
1868	1,269,674
1869	935,424

30. The reported value of Muscovado sugar, the produce of the Colony, exported in the three years was:

	£
In 1867	800,970
1868	857,250
1869	479,550

Gaols and Crime.

31. The returns last year showed an increase of 8 per cent., this year of not less than 30 per cent. It was sufficiently apparent that though a large portion of this increase arose from the want of demand for labour, and consequently impoverished state of the population, some check was needed to prevent the influx of offenders into the prisons. This has been effected by the introduction of a system of prison discipline, founded upon the use of the treadwheel and shot-drill.

General Remarks.

32. Although the season during the last half of 1869 was more favourable for the growing canes than the preceding nine months, the rainfall of 1869 differed little from that of 1868, and a general apprehension was felt that the crop of 1870 would again fall short. The sugar crop of Barbados depends mainly upon the quantity of rain that falls, as the area of land under cane and the method of cultivation are at present nearly stationary; and the following rough statement of the average rainfall throughout the island during the last few years will show that there was but too reasonable a ground for the fears of the planters:

	Inches.		Hhds.
In 1863 it was about	42·5, and the crop of	1863–4 was	36,199
1864 „	60·0 „	1864–5 „	46,068
1865 „	69·0 „	1865–6 „	57,188
1866 „	60·0 „	1866–7 „	51,304
1867 „	70·5 „	1867–8 „	58,250
1868 „	46·0 „	1868–9 „	32,150
1869 „	47·0		

33. The coming crop of 1869–70 at the end of the year was not expected to exceed 40,000 hhds. An examination of the above table will show that the crops of the above six seasons yielded from 700 to 850 hogsheads of sugar for each inch of rain. The average is about 800. According to this the crop of 1869–70 might be expected to yield 38,000 hhds. The quantity shipped up to the present date (38,189 hhds.) and the quantity supposed to remain to be shipped (200 hhds.) amount to 38,389 hhds.

34. I hope next year to be able to add some valuable information regarding the rainfall of the Island for a series of years. The above statement may be accepted as a reliable average for the last seven years, having been calculated from the results of daily observations at a considerable number of stations in all parts of the Island.

35. The close approximation between the estimate of the planters, the calculation founded upon the rainfall of 1869, and the actual yield, is very striking. The anticipation of this result, and of very short crops in two successive years, did not encourage the public to look with cheerfulness to the agricultural operations of the coming year. The price of sugar in 1869 had been good; it might hold up. This might diminish the expected loss. I regret to conclude by adding that at the present date this hope has been greatly disappointed, and that the planters of Barbados have had to struggle during the present year (1870) with short crops and low prices.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) RAWSON W. RAWSON,
Governor.

ST. VINCENT.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 8.

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor RAWSON, C.B., to the Right Hon. The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 58.)

MY LORD, Windward Islands, Barbados, September 12, 1870.

IN transmitting the enclosed Despatch, in original, from Lieutenant-Governor Berkeley, containing his report on the Blue Book for St. Vincent for the year 1869, it is but justice to that officer that I should confirm his statements with regard to the good spirit at present existing between himself and his Legislature, which I am enabled to do by personal communications with all the leading members of the latter body on the occasion of my recent visit to the Island, from whom I received assurances of their satisfaction with the state of public affairs, and with the recent change in the form of Government.

ST. VINCENT. 2. I am not without hope that the evidence of contentment and advancement in St. Vincent will lead to a corresponding change in other of the Islands within this Government, where the same evils exist which led to the voluntary adoption of the change in St. Vincent.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. The Earl of Kimberley, (Signed) RAWSON W. RAWSON.
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 82.)

SIR, Government House, Saint Vincent, September 7, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency for transmission to the Secretary of State the St. Vincent Blue Book for the year 1869, with respect to which I beg to offer the following remarks.

Taxes.

2. There were no alterations made in 1869 to the rates of taxes and imposts previously existing.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. As stated in my address to the Legislative Assembly at the opening of the Session in the present year, the total amount of revenue, from all sources, in the year 1869, was 30,711*l.*, of which 23,509*l.* was derived from taxation and miscellaneous receipts for general purposes, 5,641*l.* was yielded by the taxes for Imperial troops, and 1,561*l.* was produced by the additional export taxes specially devoted to the Immigration Fund. The latter account showed other sums on its revenue side amounting to 2,049*l.*, but these consisted of a contribution from the general revenue and the proportion of cost of importing immigrants reimbursed to the fund by their employers.

4. The expenditure for general services was 19,228*l.*; for Imperial troops, 7,459*l.*; and for immigration, 5,310*l.* The amount for troops included 3,000*l.* on account of the previous year. The immigration expenditure included 1,268*l.*, reimbursed as already mentioned, and 100*l.* remitted to the Emigration Commissioners, but was exclusive of expenses in India defrayed out of funds remitted in 1868, amounting to about 1,000*l.*

5. The Imperial troops fund, including a balance from 1868, after discharging all claims upon it, left a surplus of 873*l.* which merged into the general revenue. The Immigration Fund, was, on the other hand, indebted to the general revenue for over payments to the extent of 1,100*l.*

6. The surplus of revenue applicable to general services was 6,659*l.*, including the amount due by the Immigration Fund. The actual cash balance, after closing the transactions of 1869, was 6,836*l.*, of which 1,278*l.* belonged to the Savings Bank and other special funds, and 5,558*l.* was available for general services.

7. A comparison of the actual revenue with the estimates of 1869 shows an increase on every item of Customs, amounting in the whole to nearly 2,500*l.*, and there can be no doubt that the larger portion of this increase was due to an augmented general demand for imported goods. The rum duty (excise) exceeded the estimate by 1,827*l.* (having produced more than 5,300*l.*); and although this might be in part attributable to a rateable increase of the duty on spirits over proof, instead of the former fixed charge upon all proofs alike, it was in a great measure owing to greater vigilance and care in collecting the duty.

8. The expenditure of 1869 exceeded that of 1868 by about 5,000*l.* This difference arises almost wholly under the head of Imperial troops. The expenditure for this service in 1868 consisted of the remainder of cost of preparing the barracks, and of some minor local charges. That of 1869, besides including some additional expenses for buildings, embraced the contribution to the Imperial Exchequer for the whole year, 4,000*l.*, and for three-quarters of the previous year, 3,000*l.*

Public Debt.

9. There is no public debt against the Colony. The special fund set apart for immigration had become indebted to the public for advances from the general revenue to the extent of 1,100*l.* at the end of 1869.

Military Expenditure.

10. The amount expended for this service was, for Imperial troops, 7,460*l.*; militia and volunteers, 265*l.* The former item, as has already been shown, includes 3,000*l.* of expense properly chargeable upon the service of 1868. The latter was in great part for the maintenance of the band, which there appeared to be a strong desire on the part of the community to maintain.

Public Works.

11. Under this head the sum of 627*l.* appears, as against 1,029*l.* in 1868, but it must be borne in mind that the sum of 500*l.* voted for certain alterations and additions to the gaol, as adverted to in my previous report, was still held in abeyance, pending the arrival of the Colonial Engineer. While upon this subject I am happy to be able to report that since the assumption of his duties by that officer (on the 5th February in the present year) the works for supplying water to the Colonial Hospital have been completed under his direction, and that he has prepared a comprehensive Plan for remodelling the gaol, which it will be my duty to submit for the approval of Her Majesty's Government when forwarding the Estimates for the year 1871.

Legislation.

12. Although the number of Acts passed during 1869 was small, the subjects dealt with were of considerable local importance. The Act No. 309 has provided a means of equitably relieving the Colony from much of the heavy expense of return passages for immigrants to India, by the payment of a commutation bounty to those who are willing to accept it. Of these many have already appeared.

Act No. 312 substituted (from the beginning of 1870) a paid warden of the chief town, to be appointed by the Governor, instead of the former elected and unpaid wardens. The whole control of the town, and the management of its finances, have been by this Act transferred to the Executive.

Act No. 313, for the amendment of the Quarantine Laws, was framed upon the model Bill received from Her Majesty's Government.

Act No. 319 conceded certain modifications of the Excise law in deference to the wishes of an influential section of the community.

Act. No. 321 repealed the former Acts for regulation of the prison, and substituted provisions more nearly in accordance with the Imperial Act relating to prisons in the West Indies.

Civil Establishment.

13. The only addition to the establishment was the appointment of certain officers required under the "Spirit Duties Act, 1868," which came into operation 15th January, 1869. The pay of these officers is provided for by an appropriation in the said Act of 500*l.* a-year, but the single clerkship under the former Act, with a salary of 150*l.*, was abolished. In connection with the establishment, I would say that certain provisional arrangements were made, contingent upon the absence of Mr. Hawtayne, the Police Magistrate of the Leeward district, on leave.

Executive Council.

14. By special permission from the Secretary of State I submitted for Her Majesty's approval the names of four unofficial gentlemen as additional Members of the Council, an arrangement that was agreeably received by the proprietary body, who were anxious to obtain a more adequate representation of their interests in the Council.

15. No provision, however, was made for filling up the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Lynch, which occurred during the year, nor is it intended to make any.

Pensions, &c.

16. A retiring pension of 57*l.* 10*s.* was granted to Mr. Thomas LeGall, who held the office of clerk under the old Excise Act. The other payments under this head remain without change, the whole amount of pensions being 105*l.* a-year.

Population.

17. From the Annual Report of the Registrar-General, it appears that the births in 1869 were 1,651, and the deaths 1,103, the difference, 548, being a natural increase on the estimated numbers of the population at the beginning of the year of about 1½ per cent. In addition to this increase there was an importation of about 350 Indian immigrants. Upon an estimate founded on the census of 1861, and the records of births and deaths and immigration since that date, the total population at the close of 1869 could not have been far short of 37,000. A most important fact is also adverted to in the Registrar-General's Report, namely, the decrease in the proportion of illegitimate births, which has come down from 63 to 48 per cent., a rate considerably below that of any previous year.

MISCELLANEOUS NUMERICAL RETURNS.

Savings Bank.

18. The number of depositors increased from 105 in 1868, to 169 in 1869. The progress of the transactions of this institution appears to be steady, though slow.

Immigrants.

19. The number of immigrants appear to have been:—

Indian	1,181
Portuguese	3
African	14

The increase apparent in the Indians arises partly from the introduction of 350 coolies during the year, and partly from the entering into new indentures of some of those who had completed their original terms of service, and were not included in the number stated at the end of 1868; for these numbers refer only to the immigrants who are actually under indenture at the end of the year for which the Blue Book is made up.

Education.

20. The number of schools increased from 43 to 45, and that of pupils from 2,942 to 3,140, a difference of 208. The progressive increase of the latter adverted to in my last report has consequently been sustained.

Imports and Exports.

21. The total value of imports was 145,456*l.*, being 15,000*l.* more than in the previous year. Of the total sum there was—

	£
From the United Kingdom	62,661
„ British Colonies	78,886
„ Foreign Countries	3,909

22. The total value of exports is shown to be 191,744*l.*, which is less by 3,800*l.* than in 1868. The chief causes of this apparent decrease are the valuation of sugar at a slightly diminished rate, and a large falling off in the exportation of rum, of which little more was produced than sufficient for local consumption. Against these there appears to have been a great increase in molasses.

23. The quantities of principal produce exported were—

Sugar	11,145 hogsheads
Rum	358 puncheons
Molasses	3,783 „
Arrowroot	11,226 barrels

Being a decrease, as compared with the previous year, of

Sugar	109 hogsheads
Rum	1,302 puncheons
Arrowroot	422 barrels

With an increase in molasses of 2,434 puncheons. The decrease upon sugar, caused by the unusually dry seasons, is trifling when compared with the losses of the neighbouring islands from the same cause. The marked falling off in the quantity of rum was consequent upon the cessation of its manufacture on many estates, owing to ill-founded mistrust of the new excise law, which has since been allayed. The molasses shipped away increased in proportion as the distillation of rum was given up. A further decrease of the arrowroot shipments is the natural effect of a continued falling off in the demand, which has been produced in some measure by the introduction of American corn-starch into the English market.

Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries.

24. There are no manufactures except of the produce already mentioned; and there are no mines, although indications of the existence of metallic ores are not wanting. On this point, however, nothing definite can be stated, as the Colony has never yet had the benefit of a geological survey, although there was, some time ago, reason to hope that the labours of the gentlemen engaged upon that duty in Jamaica might be extended to the other West India Islands.

25. The whale fishery in the adjacent waters continues to be profitably carried on by American vessels, the value of the oil exported in 1869 amounting to over 7,000*l*.

Gaols and Prisoners.

26. There were 21 prisoners convicted by the Superior Criminal Court, against 12 in the previous year, which year however appears, from a return accompanying the last Blue Book, to have shown the smallest number of such convictions in a period of 10 years. On the other hand the committals by the magistrates fell from 267 in 1868, to 221, exclusive of debtors. The number of committals under sentences of magistrates usually includes a considerable proportion of offenders who undergo imprisonment in preference to the payment of fines. The approaching introduction of a treadwheel is likely to relieve the gaol entirely of this class, as well as greatly to diminish, by its deterrent effect, the number of offenders who are not allowed the option of fines.

Hospitals and Lunatic Asylums.

27. The returns under these heads appear for the first time in the Blue Book of 1869, and are accompanied by plans of the "Colonial Hospital," which is the sole institution of the kind. There is no Lunatic Asylum. The number of patients admitted to the Hospital during the year was 202, which with 36 remaining from 1868 made a total of 238 patients treated.

Of this number there were discharged cured - -	145	
" " relieved - -	31	
	—	176
And the deaths were - - - - - -		38
		214
Leaving in hospital - - - - -		24
		238

The case death-rate was 15·96 per cent. This rate was larger than it might otherwise have been, owing to the disinclination evinced in many instances by patients themselves, or by their relatives, to take advantage of the benefit of the institution until their diseases had assumed too severe a form to be amenable to medical treatment.

General.

28. As this is the last occasion upon which, in all probability, it will devolve upon me to make a report of this nature in connection with the Island of St. Vincent, I may perhaps be pardoned for drawing attention to certain particulars in which the condition of the Colony has materially altered since I assumed the government in 1864.

ST. VINCENT.

29. In sending home the Blue Book of that year I stated that the revenue amounted to 20,359*l.* For the purpose of comparison with the year under report this sum must be reduced by 463*l.*, being receipts not Colonial revenue, leaving 19,896*l.* In my present report the revenue is set down at 30,711*l.*, from which, however, must be deducted the amount of immigration taxes, an item excluded from the statement for 1864, leaving 29,150*l.*; and although 5,641*l.* of this is attributable to new sources of taxation levied for an express purpose, there still remains an excess of 3,600*l.*, arising almost entirely from an increased consumption of rateable articles.

30. In 1864 also I reported the export of sugar as 8,168 hhds. I have before me a return from the Public Treasurer, made up to the 31st July of the present year, showing that the export to that date amounted to 12,543 hhds., and as I am credibly informed that at least 500 hhds. remain to be shipped, the entire export will exceed 13,000 hhds., or over 61 per cent. increase on the crop of 1864; and though I am aware that as a general rule commercial prosperity may be ascribed mainly to the effects of individual enterprise, yet in this Colony, where agricultural success is admitted on all hands to be due to immigration, a scheme promoted and fostered by the local Government, some departure from the application of general principles may perhaps in this instance be allowed.

31. Though in the work of legislation the Colony has fully kept pace with the exigencies of the times, I will now only advert to two of the measures that have been passed during my tenure of office. The most important, undoubtedly, is that which produced a radical change in the form of government, abolishing the old double Chamber system and establishing one Legislative Assembly with a reduced number of members, and so constituted as to give the Government a majority in the Chamber. Though this preponderance was regarded at first with much jealousy by the elective section, and measures of an important character were, from the opposition shown to them, abandoned (for a time only, I trust) by the Government, I am happy to be able to report that this feeling has gradually died out, and that the best spirit now exists between all branches of the Legislature. In making provision in this respect I may remark that St. Vincent is singular, as none of the other islands in the same Government have taken any steps in this direction, the old form of government being retained, except in the case of St. Lucia, which has always been a Crown Colony.

32. Of scarcely less importance, however, do I consider the Act which provides for the maintenance in the Colony of a small body of Imperial troops. There can be no doubt that if protection is necessary, and the experience of a few years since proved this to be the case, the only effectual mode of securing it is that adopted here; for whatever facilities may exist in a Colony where the English race is in the ascendant, the position is materially altered in a community such as this, where you must, in the formation of a protective force, be dependent to a great degree upon members of that class which furnishes the ground for apprehension. The same rule applies, though not to a similar extent, to the Police Force, which can never be brought beyond a certain amount of efficiency, seeing the material from which its ranks must necessarily be recruited.

33. The events of the year to which this report more particularly applies are not of a nature to call for any further comments than appear under the remarks appended to the several headings of the Blue Book itself.

I have, &c.,

To His Excellency Governor Rawson, C.B., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY.

GRENADA.

GRENADA.

No. 9.

No. 9.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor MUNDY to Governor RAWSON, C.B.

(No. 40.)

SIR, Government House, October 14, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1869, with a brief report thereon.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The revenue collected from all sources and applicable only to general purposes, amounted in 1869 to 23,140*l.* 14*s.*, against 21,740*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* of the previous year, and the expenditure to 21,265*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*, against 21,920*l.* 9*s.*, leaving with the surplus revenue brought forward from the year previous, a balance to the credit of the Colony of 1878*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*

3. The immigration fund still presents a very healthy condition. After defraying the expenses of the year, including the grant of bounties of 2,157*l.* 10*s.*, the unexpended balance carried to the service of the current year amounted to 4,957*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*

4. There were no unusual charges on either the water or harbour funds, their united balances amounting to 2,114*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*

Public Debt.

5. The gradual extinction of the only obligation of this nature, for purposes of immigration, satisfactorily continues. The value of invested stock held for meeting this loan of 7,000*l.* reached at the end of the year the sum of 5,253*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*

Works, Roads, &c.

6. The amount expended on repairs of edifices and roads was 2,954*l.* 14*s.* No new works of importance were undertaken during the year. Provision has at length been recently made for a professional officer of works, and a greater amount of confidence in the application of the annual grants must ere long be felt, which cannot be said to have existed for years past.

Legislation.

7. Numerous important additions have, during the year, been made to the Statute Book, among which may be mentioned:—

"An Act for prohibiting the exportation of cattle for the purpose of preventing the introduction of contagious or infectious disorders."

"An Act for the prevention of accidents by fire."

"An Act to regulate weights and measures."

"An Act for carrying out capital punishment within the gaol."

"An Act to consolidate the law relating to Quarantine."

"An Act to consolidate and amend the laws relating to immigration."

"An Act to amend the Immigration Act, 1869."

A Code of Acts relating to criminal procedure in assimilation with the laws of England.

"An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Court of Complaints, and to extend the jurisdiction thereof."

8. This Act I am glad to report has put an end to imprisonment for debt as to amounts of 20*l.* and under, and in extending the jurisdiction of the Court to that amount has given creditors the benefit of a speedy judgment at trifling cost to the debtor.

9. The last Act of importance, and which may be considered a sequel to the Act extending the operation of the Encumbered Estates Court to this Island, was passed in December last. It repeals the Act passed since the 31st October, 1812, intituled "An "Act for more effectually securing the payment of certain debts contracted for the use "of and benefit of the estates and plantations in this Island and its dependencies against "the effect of sales or disposal thereof, or change of property therein, or the death of "proprietors."

The effect of the repeal of this measure has been to remove the impediment which so long existed to the transfer of property in this Island.

Political Franchise.

10. The electoral rights of the people remain unaltered. The septennial duration of the Assembly having expired, a general election took place in February, and several new members were returned, when 412 voters exercised their privilege, the total number of registered electors being 566.

GRENADA.

Population.

11. The estimated population to 31st December, 1869, was 37,157. 1,618 births and 973 deaths were added to the registers, giving an increase of 1·76 per cent. The birth-rate during the year was 4·43 per cent.; the proportion of legitimate births being 1·66 and that of the illegitimate 2·77 per cent. The death-rate was 2·66 per cent. Of adults of all ages from 15 years, 1·23 per cent. Children under one year, ·73 per cent., and those above one and up to 15 years, ·70 per cent. The number of still-births returned was 54.

Ecclesiastical.

12. There are five rectories and three curacies in the Colony, constituting the Anglican clergy, their united salaries, fees, and allowances amounting to 2,137*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, of which the sum of 1,898*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* for salaries and allowances is supplied from public funds.

13. The number of churches, chapels, and other preaching places returned by the clergy is ten, and capable of containing an aggregate congregation of 3,358, the average attendance in such places of worship during the whole year being 1,925.

14. Roman Catholic and Wesleyan Methodists are the other two denominational bodies labouring in the Colony, and are not endowed. There are in all 12 churches and chapels attached, which are served by seven ministers. The average attendance during the year has been returned at 5,830.

Education.

15. The public instruction of the people is authorized by Act No. 302, which establishes, under the control and superintendence of a Board of seven Members nominated by the Governor, a normal and grammar school under the immediate charge of a head master, who is also Inspector of Schools, and two assistant masters. Besides the normal and grammar school, which is open to all denominations, there are 13 schools in connection with the Church of England, five with the Wesleyan body, and seven with the Roman Catholic, all which receive aid from the Board of Education. The aggregate attendance at these schools was 1,883 against 1,704 of the previous year.

Imports and Exports.

16. Both the imports and exports have exceeded in value those for the last six years. The imports from the United Kingdom were almost double in value those of the previous year. The trade with foreign countries has also considerably advanced. Large quantities of rum find a ready sale with the Venezuelan traders, who in turn bring up their country's products to our market.

17. The agricultural prospects of the country for the crop of 1869 were indeed very generally poor; drought to an alarming extent prevailed almost throughout the Island, and hence a sugar crop somewhat beneath the average was reaped.

18. The value of cocoa shipped during the year exceeded that of the year previous, and will continue to do so from the extended cultivation of the plant. The united values of sugar and cocoa exported was 103,668*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*

Conclusion.

19. No remarkable event occurred during the year. The conduct of the population was orderly and quiet. The public health was of the ordinary kind, and no contagious disease existed.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency Governor Rawson, C.B., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) ROB. M. MUNDY.

TOBAGO.

No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor KORTRIGHT to Governor RAWSON, C.B.

(No. 35.)

SIR, Government House, Tobago, August 27, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Tobago Blue Book for 1869, together with my report thereon.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue, including 198*l.* 8*s.* 11½*d.* balance in the treasury on the 1st of January, was 9,900*l.* 12*s.* 0½*d.*, showing an increase of 545*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* over the revenue of the previous year, which may be attributed principally to the imports having exceeded those of 1868, and to a larger amount realized from the tonnage dues.

The expenditure for the year amounted to 9,814*l.* 18*s.* 3½*d.*, against 10,154*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*, being a decrease of 340*l.* 0*s.* 7½*d.* in favour of 1869. The legislative grants in 1868 amounted to 450*l.*, whereas in 1869 the sum of 50*l.* only was granted to the Wesleyan body to assist to pay off a debt due on their chapel in Scarborough.

Public Debts.

The only public debt in 1869 was the sum due to Her Majesty's Government on account of the loan of 20,000*l.* for the relief of the sufferers by the hurricane of 1847. During the year remittances were made amounting to 300*l.*, reducing the balance due to 691*l.* 9*s.**

Public Works.

The principal public works executed during the year were :—

1. Extensive repairs to the Gaol, the main building of which was entirely re-roofed at a cost of 472*l.* 10*s.*

2. Repairs to the wharf premises lately purchased by the Government at an expense of 140*l.*

3. Repairs to the road throughout the Colony. The expenditure on account of this work was 884*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*

The commutation money raised under the Road Act amounted to 82*l.* 18*s.*, against 167*l.* 14*s.* in the previous year.

This decrease is to be accounted for by the fact that the Road Commissioners accepted so many contracts for the repairs of the roads, that it was unnecessary to call out the whole number of persons who are liable to give labour to the public or to pay the commutation tax of 6*s.*

Legislation.

Two Legislative Sessions are held during the year, commencing respectively in March and October. In the March Session six Acts, and in the October Session eight Acts were passed, the principal of which are:—

1. An Act to provide for carrying out of capital punishment within prisons.

2. An Act to vest in His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and his successors in office, certain lands and buildings situate in the lower town of Scarborough.

3. An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain rates and taxes in aid of the revenue of the year 1870.

4. An Act for granting to Her Majesty for the use of the Island a duty on certain licences.

5. An Act to repeal an Act entitled "An Act to repeal the Act now in force relating "to the duties payable on tonnage and as lighthouse fees on vessels entering the ports "of this Island," and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

* The whole debt has since been paid off.

TOBAGO.

6. An Act to provide additional funds in aid of the general revenue of this Island.

7. An Act to make provision for the licensing of stills, and to make certain amendments in the Act 21 Vic., cap. 5.

8. An Act to appropriate the revenue of the year 1870 towards defraying the expenditure of the Civil Government.

Councils and Assemblies.

Two appointments were made in 1869 to fill vacancies occasioned by deaths in the Legislative Council. Doctor William Ifil Buhôt was appointed in March, and the Reverend Samuel Oliver Crosby in October.

Population.

The population of Tobago was estimated at 16,740 in 1868. Allowing the natural increase to have been at the rate of 1·52 per cent., the population on the 31st December, 1869, would be 16,995 souls.

The census taken in April, 1861, gives a total of 15,410 persons, showing, if the estimated natural increase be correct, an increase of 1·585 since April, 1861.

Within the last two or three years labourers have been imported from Barbados to the extent of at least 500, and I am informed that comparatively few have returned to their own island. Some emigration from the labouring population of this Island has taken place to Trinidad, but on a very limited scale.

Ecclesiastical.

The general revenue is charged with the salaries of three rectors, amounting to 960*l.*, and with 100*l.* a year for an Island curate.

There are five Church of England churches and eight chapels and rooms in which Divine Service is held.

There are two Wesleyan and two Moravian ministers, none of whom are in the receipt of Colonial pay.

There are nine chapels connected with the former denomination, and five in which the services are conducted in accordance with the principles of the Moravian Church.

Education.

According to the returns in the Blue Book, the following table shows the number of schools in the Colony, and the number of children attending them.

Denomination.	Number of Schools.	Number of Teachers.	Number of Scholars.		Total.
			Male.	Female.	
Church of England -	13, including 2 Sunday Schools.	14	534	493	1,027
Wesleyan - -	7	8	329	257	586
Moravian - - -	8, including 2 Sunday Schools.	8	439	400	839
				Total - -	2,452

This return exhibits an increase of 268 attending the Church of England schools, of 74 attending the Wesleyan schools, and of 104 attending the Moravian schools, during the year 1869.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports is estimated at 52,168*l.*, being an increase of 3,273*l.* as compared with 1868. The value of the exports, estimated at the market value at the time of exportation, amounted to 74,223*l.*, of which 73,735*l.* was the estimated value of produce and manufactures of the Colony.

Gaols and Prisons.

The greatest number of prisoners confined in the common gaol of Tobago at one time was 39, showing an increase of nine compared with the previous year. The committals appear however to have been fewer than in 1868.

Charitable and Literary Institutions.

The cost of the maintenance of paupers, including medical care and the cost of funerals, was 457*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*; and the number of persons who received relief was 84, differing very little from the expenses and number in 1868.

There is a reading room in Scarborough, supported by private subscription, and a book-club in the Windward District.

General.

The labouring population was quiet and orderly. The health of the Island was good. The Registrar-General makes the following remarks in his Abstract of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, for 1869, "By the first of these tables it will be seen that although the "numerical increase in 1869 was only 23, as compared with the previous year, the "fecundity ratio in 1869 was larger in proportion: the number being 255 or 1·52 per "cent. in excess of the deaths, whilst in 1868 the number was 190 or 1·23 per cent.

"The death-rate to the whole population as represented in the second of the tables, "was in 1868 2·72 per cent., and in 1869 2·07 per cent., which when placed in comparison "with the Colonies of Grenada, St. Vincent, and Antigua, evidences a not unfavourable "feature to Tobago. The figures given are from the latest reliable returns at hand; they "stand thus:—

		Population.	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.
Tobago - -	1868	15,410	3·08	2·72
	1869	16,740	3·57	2·07
Grenada - -	1867	36,157	3·92	2·69
	1868	—	4·14	2·48
St. Vincent -	1867	35,000	4·09	3·03
Antigua - -	1867	35,903	4·26	3·85

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. W. KORTRIGHT.

His Excellency Governor Rawson, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. LUCIA.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 11.

No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Administrator to Governor RAWSON W. RAWSON, C.B.

(No. 71.)

SIR, Government Office, St. Lucia, November 18, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of St. Lucia for the year 1869.

Having arrived in the Colony for the first time in July of that year, I shall confine myself chiefly in the present report to a few observations suggested by the returns.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The total revenue was as follows:

	£	s.	d.
General revenue - - - - - -	14,982	19	0
Roads and bridges fund - - - - -	1,256	0	6
Education fund - - - - - -	719	6	1
Immigration fund - - - - -	1,816	15	2
Casual revenue of the Crown - - - -	205	8	2
Castries Harbour dredge fund - - - -	161	19	0
	£19,142	7	11

ST. LUCIA.

3. The general revenue was less than that of 1868 by 363*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*, but exceeded that of 1867 by 1,540*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, and the average revenue of the last three years by 297*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, the tariff remaining the same.

4. The revenue of special funds shows: (1) an increase of 289*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* in that of the immigration fund, owing to an additional export duty on sugar imposed in 1868 to defray the cost of returned coolies; (2) an increase of 139*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* in that of the education fund, owing chiefly to greater activity in detecting breaches of the revenue law, the fines for which are applied to this fund.

5. The expenditure was as follows:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
General expenditure	13,637	17	2
Roads and bridges fund	896	4	10
Education fund, exclusive of grant from general revenue of 500*l.* included under general expenditure	403	19	5
Immigration fund	1,293	2	5
Casual revenue of the Crown	400	0	0
Castries Harbour dredge fund	116	19	5
	£16,748	3	3

6. The general expenditure is less than that of 1868 by 171*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*; that of the immigration fund is less by 6,319*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* than in 1868, owing to there having been no coolies returned to India in the year under report.

Imports and Exports.

7. The value of imports in 1869 was 90,964*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*; their average annual value during the previous five years was 84,321*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* There is a falling off in the amount as compared with that of last year of 6,881*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* Mercantile operations were possibly contracted in expectation of a short crop in consequence of a drought.

8. The value of exports, 1869, was 118,164*l.*, 9,487*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* more than the average value of the five previous years. Their value in 1868 was 121,366*l.* The slight falling off this year as compared with last year is owing to weather unfavourable to

Agriculture.

9. A severe drought at the latter end of 1868 and the beginning of 1869 considerably diminished the production of sugar; it would have done so to a far greater extent but for an increase of cultivation. In the present year there has been the largest crop of sugar ever produced in the Island. This result is the more satisfactory inasmuch as the benefit derived from the factitious supply of East Indian labour has almost ceased, there having been no importation of coolies since 1862; only 600 remained in the Colony at the end of 1869, and nearly all of these will have left for India or elsewhere by the end of this year. The following Table shows that the production of the Colony is slowly but steadily increasing.

QUANTITY and VALUE of EXPORTS during the years 1839, 1849, 1859, 1869.

	1839.		1849.		1859.		1869.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£		£		£
Sugar Hhds.	3,529,250	59,485	7,874,860	46,984	7,966,385	92,208	10,517,725	102,700
Molasses Galls.	135,080	8,347	144,042	4,181	84,617	2,438	205,300	8,212
Rum Hhds.	13,200	1,540	5,391	271	16,264	1,081	1,840	185
Cocoa Hhds.	75,952	949	104,912	1,009	198,567	3,274	271,968	4,030
	—	70,321	—	52,455	—	99,001	—	115,127

Education.

10. The public funds devoted to education were: (1) the usual grant of 500*l.* from the general revenue; and (2) the yield of certain export duties on articles produced by the classes chiefly benefited by public education, and of certain licence dues and penalties set apart for the purpose by Ordinance. The sum received from these sources during the

year was 719*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.* These two sums, together with 1,965*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* contributed by the Mico Charity, represent together the whole sum spent on education. The public grants were, as usual, divided about equally between the Roman Catholic and Protestant committees. Inasmuch as the Roman Catholics are to the Protestants as nearly 30 to 1, this arrangement would be unfair, only that the Protestant committee grant the whole of their share to the Mico schools. In these education is unsectarian, and the great majority of pupils are Roman Catholics. The constitution of the Charity enables the employment in them of trained teachers. They were established long before any others, immediately after emancipation, so that the greater part of the adult population which has received any education was brought up in them. For these reasons they maintain their proportion of pupils notwithstanding the influence of the Catholic clergy, which is not unnaturally used in favour of their own denominational schools. The returns for 1869 show an increasing number of pupils in both Catholic and Mico schools, and more regular attendance. In the Mico schools there were 1,323 pupils on the register, the daily attendance being on the average 816. The numbers in 1868 were respectively, 1,177 and 718. There is no return of average attendance from the Catholic schools, but the number of pupils was 935 as compared with 892 in 1868.

The existence of rival schools in the towns is not altogether a disadvantage; the funds being sufficient for the maintenance of both: but in the smaller places division is simply weakness, and amalgamation would ensure a better education than is there attainable under the present system. However religions are as mutually repellent here as elsewhere, and a compromise appears at present impossible. I fear if in such cases the public grant was withdrawn from the less effective school, that though the children in the other would be better taught, not a few who now learn something would grow up altogether without teaching.

Gaols.

11. The improved discipline introduced into the gaol in 1867 continues to produce good effects. The number of persons committed in 1869 was 268. In 1868 the number was 291. In 1867, previous to the introduction of the new system, 592. The number of recommittals was in 1869, 22; in 1868, 27.

Legislation.

12. Ten Ordinances were passed during the year.

The most important are the following:—

No. 1 of 1869. By this Ordinance the system of granting tickets of leave to convicts was assimilated to that of England. No. 2, of 1869, provides for the incorporation and registration of Joint Stock Companies. This Ordinance did not receive the Royal Confirmation; and another will be introduced embodying the improvements of recent legislation in England. No. 10, of 1869, abolishes the punishment of death for all crimes other than murder.

General Remarks.

13. On the whole the Island appears to be advancing towards prosperity, slowly indeed, but steadily. The exports of produce are, as I have said, greater now than in the days of slavery; and greater even than when the largest number of Indian immigrants was present. This is partly no doubt owing to the natural increase of population, but partly, I hope, to increasing industry on the part of the labourers, and a greater disposition to conciliate them on the part of planters. The registration of births and deaths established by my predecessor at the instance of the Secretary of State came into operation for the first time in 1869. The births were in number 1,359; the deaths, 834. Deducting from each 88 still-births, the birth rate (in an estimated population of 30,800) was 41 in each 1,000 of population; the death-rate, 24 in 1,000. This death-rate being only 1 in 1,000 higher than the average rate for three years (1864–5–6) in England and Wales, would not in itself call for remark; but of the total deaths 47 per cent. are of children under five years old. In England and Wales the deaths under this age were on the average of the three years (1864–5–6) only 40 per cent. of the whole; and even this proportion has been considered excessive, and in some measure arising from preventable causes. There can be no doubt that the high proportion in St. Lucia is in a great measure caused by neglect on the part of parents, and the utter want of medical aid for the poor in the country districts. To abate this evil it is proposed to establish district hospitals in Soufrier and Vieuxfort, both of which places are the centre of a large agri-

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cultural population. The medical men appointed to these hospitals would be otherwise available for attendance upon children of the neighbouring poor. Many lives might thus be saved, which are now, I fear, sacrificed. Population being here so much required, some measure of this kind is desirable, no less on economical grounds than for the sake of humanity. The increased expense would be far less than has been the cost of coolie immigration, whereas the yearly saving of a few lives would before long cause an increase of population far greater than could be produced by any such immigration within the means of the Colony. For the African race in this Island tends to multiply, and coolies as hitherto introduced into these Colonies do not; and further, natives as a rule remain in the Island; but immigrants commonly leave after their term of service has expired.

14. At the latter end of last year a vote of 300*l.* was obtained from the Legislative Council for the destruction of poisonous snakes. In February of this year a reward was in consequence offered for every head of the rat-tail snake, which is the most deadly species. In the succeeding five months the reward was claimed for 12,000 heads. Owing to the large tracts of virgin forest and the sparseness of population everywhere, it is not expected that the snakes can be exterminated. But it is hoped that perseverance with this measure will greatly thin their numbers in the inhabited districts: at present about 24 persons, or about 0·8 per 1,000 of population, die annually from the effects of their bites, and many others are more or less injured. The number of deaths in future years from this cause will afford the means of testing in some degree the success of the new measure.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency Governor Rawson, C.B., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) G. W. DES VÆUX,
Administrator of the Government.

ANTIGUA.

No. 12.

ANTIGUA.

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir BENJ. C. C. PINE to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 157.)

MY LORD, Leeward Islands, Dominica, November 4, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Antigua for 1869, together with a report thereon, from Mr. Baynes, the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) BENJ. C. C. PINE,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 12.

SIR, Government Office, Antigua, October 8, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of Antigua for the year 1869, together with my report thereon.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The ordinary revenue was 40,035*l.* 19*s.* 3½*d.*, and the ordinary expenditure 31,810*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*, showing an excess of revenue over expenditure of 8,225*l.* 10*s.* 1½*d.*

3. The total revenue, including a small loan of 593*l.*, was 40,628*l.* 19*s.* 3½*d.*, and the total expenditure, including a sum of 7,441*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* paid for interest on, and in liquidation of, the public debt of the Colony, was 39,252*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*

4. The revenue shows a decrease as compared with 1868 under the following heads:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs	1,675	6	10½
Licences, Post Office, rents, &c.	70	11	1
Taxes	227	9	11
	£1,973	7	10½

5. An increase is observable under the following heads:—

	£	s.	d.
Excise	331	7	10½
Fees of office	118	2	0
Fines, penalties, and forfeitures	175	1	4½
Incidental	16	0	0
	£640	11	3

Total decrease of revenue 1,332*l.* 16*s.* 7½*d.*

6. A considerable reduction in the expenditure of the Colony was effected in 1869, amounting to no less than 2,325*l.* in the cost of the several establishments of the Colony. The following comparative return will show the several items of increased and decreased expenditure.

	Increase. £	s.	d.	Decrease. £	s.	d.
Establishments	278	2	10	—		
Pensions	2	1	7	—		
Administration of justice (exclusive of Est.)	—			25	2	8
Ecclesiastical (ditto)	—			100	8	8
Charitable allowances	—			172	2	11½
Hospitals	—			23	15	7
Police and gaols	—			143	8	5
Rents	32	2	10	—		
Works and buildings	—			619	2	3
Roads and bridges	—			152	4	0
Military expenditure	—			337	11	11
Drawback	—			426	1	5½
Miscellaneous	—			637	18	11
	312	7	3	2,637	16	10
				312	7	3
Net decrease				£2,325	9	7

7. *Public Debt.*

	£	s.	d.
Savings bank	10,722	16	1
Debentures under Water Works Loan Act	30,000	0	0
Local loan	6,113	13	10
Immigration loan	6,301	6	5
Treasury notes	1,293	0	0
	54,430	16	4
Repayments invested on water works loan account £4,500			
Savings bank 500			
	5,000	0	0
Net public debt	£49,430	16	4

The net amount of the public debt in 1868 was 53,575*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.*

8. The repayment of the public debt is guaranteed by the creation of sinking funds.

Militia.

9. The militia of the island consists of the yeomanry cavalry and the militia artillery.

10. The strength of the former corps is 56, and its efficiency is well maintained. The artillery consists of about 40 men.

11. A sum of 1,953*l.* 16*s.* was expended in 1869 for the maintenance of the militia forces of the Colony.

Public Works.

12. No public works were undertaken during the year.

ANTIGUA.

Legislation.

13. Fifteen laws were enacted during the year, the most important of which are the following :

The Act to amend the Militia Act. Under the provisions of this Act a saving of 1000*l.* per annum has been effected in the cost of the militia establishment.

The Act for imposing stamp duties. This Act came into operation on the 1st January in the present year. The revenue derived from it will be about 750*l.* per annum.

The Act for repealing the export duty on cotton.

The Act to regulate the carriage of passengers by sea.

Population.

14. The number of births registered was 1,508 and of deaths 1,493. The number of births registered in 1868 was 1,375, and of deaths 1,517.

Imports and Exports.

15. The value of imports is returned at 174,536*l.*, showing a small increase as compared with the previous year. The value of the exports was 200,973*l.*

16. The quantity of sugar shipped was 10,370 hhds. against 12,682 in 1868. There has been a considerable decrease in the cotton crop, the exportation of that article having fallen off from 650,000 lbs. in 1868 to 335,000 in 1869.

Shipping.

17. A small decrease is shown in the number of vessels entering and clearing.

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1868 - -	454	26,784	472	28,829
1869 - - -	471	25,509	472	26,185

Crime.

18. The returns under this head are satisfactory. There has been a considerable decrease in the number of commitments, and in the number of convictions by the Court of Queen's Bench. The number of summary convictions is 99 in excess of those in the previous year, but it is much below the average of the last five years.

Year.	Summary Convictions.	Convictions. by Queen's Bench.
1865 - -	3,449	39
1866 - -	3,298	41
1867 - -	3,553	43
1868 - -	2,981	60
1869 - -	3,080	30

	Commitments.
1868 - - -	822
1869 - - - -	647
Decrease - -	175

I have, &c.,
(Signed) EDWIN C. BAYNES,
Colonial Secretary administering the Government.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Officer administering the Government to Governor Sir B. C. C. PINE.

(No. 102.)

SIR, Government House, Montserrat, June 13, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1869.

Legislation.

Thirteen Ordinances were enacted in the course of the year. Ordinance No. 1 establishes a police force of one sergeant and not more than eight privates. Ordinance No. 4 provides for the carrying out of capital punishment within the gaol. Other Ordinances consolidate enactments relating to the Earthquake Loan, the Courts of Justice, and the care of the poor and lunatics, regulate the registration of deeds and wills, and amend in important particulars the law providing for the registration of deaths.

Taxes.

The revenue was derived from:—

	£	s.	d.
Land tax	1,087	1	6¼
Import duty	2,182	13	4¼
Export duty	703	12	8½
Tonnage	187	9	4
Excise duty	200	15	10½
Liquor licences	73	7	5
Stamp duty	85	5	10
Horse tax	171	8	0
Poor-rate tax	450	2	6
Miscellaneous	1	18	3
Total	£5,143	14	9½

Or an estimated average of 11*s.* 9*d.* on each inhabitant, including the support of the poor, and a sum of 720*l.* 8*s.* 6½*d.* paid on account of the public debt.

Land Tax.

This is a tax of 15*s.* on every 100*l.* of value of the properties in this Island according to valuations affixed every year by commissioners appointed by the Governor under the authority of the Valuation Act, 1863. Against their estimates an appeal lies to the Chief Justice. Much complaint is made of the excessive valuations of land, and there can be no doubt that properties are appraised for the purposes of taxation at figures far in excess of their actual or marketable value.

Ordinances have been lately passed by the Legislature to remit the export duty on all articles and the import duty on flour and meal, and await the Royal confirmation.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The actual revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1865	3,462	10	0	4,081	14	0
1866	5,133	14	0	4,735	9	10
1867	4,071	0	10	4,024	10	1
1868	4,953	5	5	4,656	15	8
1869	5,433	6	1	5,046	3	0

MONTSERRAT.

The increase in the expenditure in 1869 as in 1868 is mainly attributable to the large outlay in the thorough restoration of the public buildings of the Colony, which had fallen into a state of ruinous decay; 547*l.* 10*s.* 3¼*d.* having been expended for this purpose in 1868, and 958*l.* 13*s.* 0¾*d.* in 1869.

The balance in the Treasury on the 31st December last was 698*l.* 15*s.* 3¼*d.*, against 311*l.* 12*s.* 1¾ in 1868. The prospect for the current year is also satisfactory.

The subjoined statement shows an estimated balance of 1,198*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* to the credit of the Colony at the close of the year.

RECEIPTS.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Balance in Treasury on 1st January, 1870 - -	698	15	7
Estimated revenue, 1870 - - - -	5,000	0	0
Total - - - - -	£5,698	15	7

EXPENDITURE.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Estimated expenditure - - - -	4,500	0	0
Probable balance on 31st Dec., 1870 - - -	1,198	15	7
Total - - - - -	£5,698	15	7

Public Debt.

A balance of 2,023*l.* 12*s.* remained due on 31st December, 1869, to the Imperial Government on account of the Earthquake Loan, 1843, and a balance of 50*l.* 12*s.* 10¾*d.* on the Currency Debt.

Public Works.

The addition of a wing of two stories to the common gaol, which had been commenced in 1868, was completed. Four cells have been obtained which are roomy and well-ventilated, and two other cells have been divided into four.

The parish church of Saint George was restored, and a school-house in the hamlet of Kinsale, attended by about 30 children, was rebuilt.

Agriculture.

The following statement shows the shipments of sugar and lime-juice for the last five years:—

Year.	Sugar.	Molasses.	Lime-Juice.
1865 - -	1,039 Hhds.	236 Puns.	113 Puns.
1866 - -	1,607 „	393 „	30 „
1867 - -	915 „	176 „	81 „
1868 - -	1,662 „	534 „	398 „
1869 - -	1,794 „	503 „	445 „

There are 35 estates in cultivation, and 9 uncultivated and in wilderness. It is pleasing to notice that several small sugar works have been recently erected, while others are in progress.

The peasantry engage in cane cultivation on their own account, and contribute considerably to swell the amount of crop. The métayer system is also much resorted to, and enables small properties to be kept in cultivation at a trifling outlay. The result, however, is not as satisfactory as might be expected, in elevating the labourer and stimulating him to careful cultivation by giving him a direct interest in the returns from the land. The rate of wages is 8*d.* to 1*s.* per diem for male and female labourers, and for children from 4*d.* to 6*d.*

The relations between the planter and the labourer are satisfactory; the latter working willingly on the estates, while very little resort is had by either to the Magistrate's Court, where the administration of summary justice is prompt and regular.

Imports and Exports.

The value of imports and exports for the last three years is as follows:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1867	17,788	13,952
1868	20,099	30,279
1869	25,254	37,228

Shipping.

	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1867	159	5,356	145	5,338
1868	150	5,265	138	5,338
1869	146	5,677	138	5,813

Education.

A grant of 50*l.* from the public funds was made for education for the first time in 1868, and a similar sum was voted in 1869.

The total number of children on the school registers for 1869 was 1,018.

The average attendance was not less than 20 per day in every school, and the schools, with the exception of one closed till October, were open all the year round.

Denomination.	Number of Schools.	Average Attendance.
Church of England	9	367
Wesleyans	4	220

The Roman Catholic day-school, which had been closed for some time for want of funds for its support, was re-opened on the 1st January in the present year, and is attended by about 40 children.

A new school was also opened by the Wesleyans in February last, and is attended by about 23 children.

The system of education is purely elementary, and the intelligence of the children is strongly marked.

Gaols and Prisons.

The construction of the gaol renders it impracticable to carry out penal discipline within the walls, there being no separate working yards for the males and females.

Male prisoners sentenced to hard labour are worked principally on the roads and streets.

The number of criminals arraigned in the Court of Queen's Bench, as compared with 1868, was as follows:—

	1868.	1869.
Convicted	13	6
Acquitted	1	2

The number of convictions in the police court, as compared with 1868, was as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1868	224	150	374
1869	180	123	312

The greatest number of prisoners in gaol at any one time was 21, and the average number was below 12.

Poor and Lunatics.

POOR HOUSE.

Pauperism is not excessive in this Island, and the cost of maintaining the poor is now defrayed from the general revenue. There were on the 31st December last 43 paupers,

MONTSERRAT.

including 12 lunatics, receiving in-door relief, and 20 paupers receiving out-door relief (at rates varying from 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per week each), or about an average of ·75 per cent. of the estimated population. The total cost of the poor-house establishment in 1869 was 636*l.* 19*s.* 5½*d.*; deducting the allowance for medical attendance on the officers and the amount of salary paid to the master, nurse, and keeper of lunatics, and rent, 108*l.* 8*s.*, the contingent expenses of the establishment were 528*l.* 11*s.* 5½*d.*

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The arrangements are the best that circumstances allow, but they are in many important particulars objectionable and deficient in the requisites for the curative treatment of the insane. The want of proper exercise and the absence of the appliances suggested by modern science afford but slender hope of recovery to this class of sufferers.

The cells are 10 in number, and the largest is 12 feet in length, 6 feet in breadth, 15 feet in height, and the smallest 8½ feet in length, 6½ feet in breadth, 10 feet in height. The exercising yard in the male ward is 50 feet long, 26 feet wide, and in the female ward 43 feet long and 32 feet wide. Both these limited enclosures are uncovered, and unfit for use during the heat of the day and in wet weather.

Health.

I regret to have to report that the usual healthfulness was disturbed by a sudden outbreak of diphtheria and ulcerated sore throat in the month of August, which prevailed for several weeks. Those attacked were chiefly infants and juveniles, and amongst these the mortality was considerable. The number of deaths amounted to 48 males and 45 females, total 93. While, as might be expected, the cases were most numerous and fatal in the town, where large numbers of poor persons are overcrowded in small ill-conditioned and badly-ventilated tenements, cases also occurred in healthy and sequestered mountain districts, and the disease, attributed to atmospheric influences, extended over the Island. There being only one medical practitioner in the Colony, Dr. Thibon was despatched from Antigua by the Governor-in-Chief to assist, and his services proved of great value. District dispensers of medicines and nourishment were also appointed, and by the means adopted to meet the disease many lives were doubtless saved. The Island is at the present time very healthy.

Population.

The population by census 1861 was 7,645; registered births, 1862 to 1869, 2,446; registered deaths, 1862 to 1869, 1,371; increase by births, 1,075; estimated population in 1869, 8,720, giving an average annual increase of 134⅜, or 1·75 per cent.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

The Registrar's returns for the past year show that there were 356 births, 277 deaths, and 68 marriages, making a gain to the population in the year of 79. Notwithstanding the exceptional mortality during the year, it is satisfactory to observe that the births are considerably in excess of the deaths.

Public Roads.

A sum of 100*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.* was expended upon the public highways, in addition to the statute labour under the Road Act, and great improvement has taken place by the process of macadamizing recently introduced into this Island. The statute labour is superintended by road surveyors, who are unpaid. The latter vary very much in zeal and intelligence, are without the requisite practical knowledge of road-making, and cannot devote the proper time to the duties of superintending the repairs, and there is no doubt that the quantity as well as the quality of work performed by statute labour is much below the average of what it ought to be. One responsible and qualified surveyor is much required to superintend the general repairs of the roads, and his services would be of far greater value than those of the present irresponsible surveyors under the Road Act.

General.

The financial condition of the Colony has become much more satisfactory during recent past years. The public debt has been reduced from 4,525*l.* in 1865 to 2,074*l.*, and

taxation has been lightened by the abolition of the poor rate, and is capable of further progressive reduction. MONTSERRAT.

One work of great public benefit is much required, namely, the introduction of a supply of pure and wholesome water from the neighbouring hills (distant not more than three miles) into the town of Plymouth. The number of inhabitants is estimated at 1,500, and they are almost entirely dependent for water upon springs in the town, the water of which is impregnated by infiltration with the drainage and sewerage of the surrounding houses, and has been pronounced by medical authority to be unwholesome and injurious. The hitherto prostrate resources of the Colony have prevented any action being taken to remedy an evil long complained of. In the absence of the opinion of a skilled engineer it is thought that from the contiguity of the water-sources the great boon of an ample and constant supply of water could be brought into the town at a comparatively small cost.

The services of a second medical practitioner are also urgently demanded. For some years there has been only one medical man resident in the Island, who receives a salary of 150*l.* per annum from the Colony to attend upon the inmates of the poor house and the gaol. It is evident that one person cannot give satisfactory medical attendance to a scattered population of nearly 9,000 persons, and medical provision is much required for infants and the aged and infirm, especially in the country districts. A measure is now before the Legislature to provide for this want.

The agricultural and general condition of the Colony is also improving, and I believe I am justified in stating that the outlooks for the future are brighter than they have been for some years past.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency Sir B. C. C. Pine, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) R. FRENCH SHERIFF, President.

ST. KITTS.

ST. KITTS.

No. 14.

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor WIGLEY to Governor Sir BENJAMIN C. C. PINE.

(No. 149.)

SIR, Government House, St. Christopher, November 24, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book for this Colony for the year 1869, and to express my regret that it should go forward unusually late.

2. The various heads of service were commented upon at great length in the Report for 1868, and it is only necessary for me to add that the general condition of the Colony is satisfactory.

3. The agriculturists reaped average crops, for which fair rates were received, and the merchants and inhabitants of Basseterre have, with praiseworthy energy, rebuilt the larger portion of their buildings destroyed by the disastrous fire of 1867.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency Sir B. C. C. Pine, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) F. SPENCER WIGLEY.

NEVIS.

No. 15.

NEVIS.

No. 15.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Administrator of the Government to Governor Sir B. C. C. PINE.

(No. 136.)

SIR, Saint Christopher, October 29, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book, and the Report thereon, for the Island of Nevis for the year 1869.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) F. SPENCER WIGLEY.

REPORT ON THE NEVIS BLUE BOOK for 1869.

The report last year by his Excellency Lieutenant Governor Cairns on the affairs of Nevis for the year 1868, was so full and comprehensive, that there remains but little to be added on the present occasion upon the several subjects of local interest.

In legislation little has been done: the difference that arose between the Government and the Legislative Assembly upon the appointment of a non-resident Colonial Secretary (the Secretary to Government of St. Christopher being appointed Colonial Secretary of Nevis), caused a cessation of business; and a Jury Act, a Public Officer's Security Act, and an Appropriation Act were the only measures that became law during the year.

Notwithstanding this Legislative inactivity, the improved and simplified form of Government, while it created confidence and stimulated agriculture and commerce, enabled the Governor to watch with a jealous eye, the collection and expenditure of the finances, and the year closed with an overflowing treasury, 4,790*l.* appearing to its credit, as against a balance of 1,415*l.* at the commencement of the year, a balance sufficiently large to suggest the propriety of several internal improvements, as well as a reduction in taxation.

The Treasury returns exhibit the following results for the past three years.

Imports and Exports.

	Imports.	Exports.
1867	40,656	31,021
1868	54,804	69,318*
1869	61,013	57,668

Revenue and Expenditure.

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1867	6,248	5,352
1868	8,058	6,676
1869	9,006	5,631

The present tariff requires considerable adjustment, the necessaries of life ought to be relieved from their present high rate of taxation, while its luxuries should be made to contribute a fairer quota to the revenue. Many articles among the exemptions might freely be subjected to a moderate duty.

In agriculture great improvement is apparent, both in the extension of cultivation, improved tillage, and the introduction of machinery; immigrants are clamorously sought for by the planters; if procured, the future prosperity of this fertile island may be looked

* There is evidently an error in this estimate of export, arising not only from the valuation of exports to the United States, but from an excessive average weight and value of the crop supplied.

forward to with some degree of confidence, but with the present limited number and independent position of the labourers, a retrogradation it is to be feared may be predicted for the agricultural body.

In commerce some activity has been noticeable, and numerous vessels have availed themselves of the facilities of the Package Act to sell partial cargoes and purchase produce; the superior quality of the latter commands a remunerative price in the United States and British provinces. It is to be regretted that the working of the Sulphur Works has been suspended.

The Island has been healthy during the year; some few sporadic cases of typhus fever have occurred, but the population generally have been free from epidemic.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency Sir B. C. C. Pine, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) C. M. ELDRIDGE,
Colonial Secretary.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from President MOIR to Governor Sir BENJAMIN C. C. PINE.

(No. 88.)

SIR, Tortola, June 11, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1869.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

The taxes and duties levied in 1869 were identical with those paid in the previous year, with the exception of the resumption of the two-shilling tax on houses under the valuation of an annual rental of 5*l.* each, which tax had been remitted in 1867 and 1868, owing to the great losses experienced by the poor people from the hurricane in the first of these years.

I have, in a separate Despatch, explained to your Excellency how unequal, impolitic, and even oppressive, I consider some of the existing taxation, and have suggested what I believe would be a fair and equitable adjustment of such imposts, by which *all* would be made to contribute something towards the revenue, while *none* could justly complain that they were called on to pay more than an equable proportion towards the support of the local Government. When opportunity shall present itself to your Excellency to review this question, perhaps in its wider aspect, as connected with the sister Colonies and the various tariffs exacted there, I think these islands will be greatly benefited by the alterations and reductions which I have respectfully suggested.

Fees.

In my Despatch, No. 49, of 28th May last, I transmitted to the Colonial Office a return of all the fees to which the Governor and the public officers in this Colony were entitled under local Ordinance or by custom, and the accompanying Blue Book contains, I believe, a full and correct account of such fees, and of the amounts actually received by the several officers for the past year. Of those fees which the officer may retain for his own benefit, many have never been collected, for many years back, while many more have been paid only partially, or have been remitted altogether.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue in 1869, was less than that of 1868 by the sum of 724*l.* 8*s.* 2½*d.* This falling off is attributable entirely to diminished imports and exports.

In 1868, large importations were made to supply the need of the people after the almost total destruction of their provision grounds by the hurricane in October, 1867. About 150 persons were fed daily from the public stores and soup kitchens, so long as

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

that means of livelihood was at their command, and which lasted for the space of four months. When, therefore, a severe drought was experienced in 1868, the usual provision grounds were unsupplied, and uncultivated, in time to raise a sufficiency of food, previously to the drought rendering the soil unproductive and unfit for agricultural operations. The inhabitants had then to resort to the sale of their cattle and small stock, which were exported in payment of the necessary importations for general use. This state of things was naturally discontinued in 1869, when, by God's blessing, the natural and usual means of support was restored to the inhabitants by copious showers of rain, and an abundant supply of ground provisions, and the consequent diminished importation of articles of food and exportation of cattle during that year.

The other sources of revenue continued without material alteration from previous years.

The decrease in the annual expenditure amounted to 114*l.* 11*s.* 8¼*d.*, owing to the partial operation of a reduction and amalgamation of offices, an item which will be of greater magnitude when the Blue Book for the present year shall be presented, and to a diminished outlay in contingent expenses. The items of 416*l.* and 50*l.* 9*s.* 8½*d.* may also fairly be added to the above reductions, for the future, as these amounts were specially expended in 1869: the first, for the restoration of the public buildings, which we must hope will not speedily be required for the same purpose, or owing to a similar catastrophe; the second, in connection with the detention of the steam-ship 'Telegrafo,' against which vessel a charge of piracy is now pending. There would thus be exhibited a reduction of 581*l.* 1*s.* 4¾*d.* in the ordinary annual expenditure of the Colony.

Public Works.

Some buildings were erected, and in course of restoration, during the years 1868 and 1869, the cost of which was defrayed from a parliamentary vote of 3,000*l.*, and a sum of 416*l.* advanced from the Colonial revenue; in which amounts are included 460*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* for cash and provisions supplied by Captain Vesey of H.M.S. 'Doris,' and 136*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* for medicines; but through some misapprehension, the detailed statements were not permitted to be furnished to the treasurer, and no account was kept in the official Colonial books. Statements, with vouchers, were however forwarded from time to time to the Governor-in-Chief, but I am unable, in the absence of details, to furnish further information than is supplied at pp. 56 and 57 of the accompanying Blue Book.

The parish church of St. George is a chaste and appropriate structure, and appears to have absorbed, in its erection, all the loving care and professional ability of the architect. The infirmary and almshouse is sufficiently commodious for the habitation of sixteen very poor and sadly diseased old people. The barracks, partially erected for the use of the destitute and infirm liberated Africans, had been so slightly constructed, that it was blown down, as already reported to your Excellency, in a common gale of wind, and the debris have been distributed among the pensioners to enable them to rebuild or repair the small separate huts they had been accustomed to occupy.

The only other building of consequence which has been commenced is the gaol, where eight cells have been built against the outer enclosure wall of the gaol yard. If the object in building these cells were intended to be of a deterrent nature, I believe any prisoner who has once had the misfortune to be confined in one of them will recognize that intention as having been perfectly realized; for I believe I state the truth when I say that these cells are faulty in construction, and must prove injurious to the health of the temporary inmates. The length and width of each cell are ample, being 16 feet 6 inches by 10 feet, but the ceiling is only 9 feet from the wooden floor, which is not even grooved and tongued, and therefore admits from beneath thin currents of air, creating colds and rheumatism in some of those confined there, as neither beds nor bedding are allowed to the prisoner. The only other ventilation provided is an iron barred opening of 24 inches by 18 inches in the front, and two slits (zigzag) of 9 inches by 3 inches in the back wall of each cell. The ceilings are covered with a roofing of corrugated iron, rising from 3 inches above the ceiling, at the eaves, to 13 inches at the outer wall, on which the roof rests. The oppressive heat in such cells in a tropical climate may be conceived, and after recently, accompanied by the acting Attorney General of St. Kitts and another gentleman, having made a practical trial of the confined atmosphere in these cells, I can well understand the report of the gaoler and turnkey that often, when a prisoner is taken out in the morning, he presents himself in a state of deliquescence and prostration. In the cold damp weather, moreover, owing to the state of the mortar, which has been mixed with salt sand, chills and fever are engendered, and the existing peculiar odour and efflorescence on the walls, produced

from lime slacked with salt water, and mortar so mixed, is very apparent. Add to this, that the entire length and breadth of the gaol yard is only 97 feet by 80 feet 8 inches, surrounded by a stone wall 12 feet high, and that the centre of that space is occupied by the old gaol, of 46 feet in length by 24 feet in width and 26 feet in height, which completely obstructs the prevailing breeze from three of the cells, and partially so from three others, and your Excellency will admit that, for humanity's sake, some alteration is urgently required.

It is with deep regret that I feel myself compelled to make these observations in the absence of anyone who might have been able to afford information as to how the architect may have intended to remedy some of these defects; and I consider it fortunate that four other cells commenced upon the same plan have not yet been completed.

Legislation.

Five Ordinances were passed during the year 1869, three of which have received the Royal confirmation, viz. the Appropriation of Revenue Ordinance, the Abolition of Colonial Secretary's Office Ordinance, and an Ordinance to provide for the registration of births, deaths, and marriages in certain cases.

Civil Establishment.

There have been several changes during the year in the civil establishment; the following offices having been abolished or amalgamated with others, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
The Colonial Secretary - - -	100	0	0
„ Registrar of Deeds - - -	25	0	0
„ Colonial Secretary's Clerk - -	25	0	0
„ Crown Law Officer - - -	100	0	0
„ Clerk to Legislative Council - -	25	0	0
„ Postmaster - - - -	20	0	0
„ Inspector of Police - - -	50	0	0
Effecting a saving of - - - -	£345	0	0
Less, amalgamated with other offices, Registrar of Deeds - - - 25*l.*			
Clerk to Magistrates - - - 25*l.*	50	0	0
Total annual reduction - -	£295	0	0

Population.

No census has been taken since 1861, when the population was numbered at 2,907 males and 3,144 females, or 6,051 in all; but I am given to understand that that number has, since then, been considerably augmented. The census which it is proposed to take next year will, however, put us in possession of reliable information on this subject. I much regret to say that the Registrar-General's returns of births, deaths, and marriages, are not in such a condition that I can safely obtain reliable information from them to frame useful tables for Imperial use. I do not think, however, that this negligence will again occur.

Coins.

A short time ago I reported to your Excellency all particulars with respect to the currency existing in these Islands, and the principal suggestion I offered was that a nickel coinage might with advantage be struck and made current, which would in every way be preferable to the curious variety of coins now in use in this Colony, and by mutual arrangement might supersede the coins of small denomination, and be exchangeable in the several British West India Colonies.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports and exports during the years 1868 and 1869 was as follows:—

	Imports.			Exports.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1868 - -	14,691	4	10	8,388	14	1
1869 - -	6,120	6	2	8,210	0	6
Decrease -	£8,570	18	8	£178	13	7

General Remarks.

Arriving in Tortola in the month of November, 1869, I had the honour in the following month to transmit the Blue Book for 1868, accompanying it with a few remarks with reference to what, in that short time, I had been able to observe as to the existing condition of these Islands and the material comforts enjoyed by the people. I stated that the cultivation of the sugar estates has been, with a few exceptions, abandoned, but that ground provisions are still largely grown and exported, principally to St. Thomas; that the pasture lands are well stocked with horned cattle, and ponies, and that sheep, goats, and pigs are numerous, and contributed to the support and comfort of the people. I subsequently reported that some good might be accomplished for these Islands, were taxation on the necessaries of life reduced, taxation to a moderate amount laid upon articles and property which could easily bear it, and the restrictive tonnage and other dues reduced or removed, so that shipping of a reasonable size might be thus induced to visit our shores.

* * * * * * * *

I have also interested myself in the examination of the minerals which abound in these Islands, and have sent to England, by last packet, a box of specimens for analysis. Should the question of a terminus for any Government Contract Mail Company be again opened up, it would be well for Her Majesty's Government to cause another and thorough investigation to be made into the capabilities of the admirable harbour of the "North Sound" of Virgin Gorda, so favourably reported on by Mr. Bennett, the late Surveyor of Post Offices in the West Indies and South America, supported by the able Despatch of my predecessor Mr. Price, and, I understand, by the very favourable opinion of Captain Leeds and others, in the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's service.

Further examination and extended investigation now enable me to venture on the enunciation of my belief that were these objects and motives to industry pursued with even a moderate degree of diligence and perseverance, and the improvements I have suggested made, the value of this once prosperous, but now almost forsaken, Colony might again be recognized, and a bygone prosperity be restored to the inhabitants of these beautiful Islands.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency Sir B. C. C. Pine, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) ALEX. W. MOIR,
President.

DOMINICA.

No. 17.

DOMINICA.

No. 17.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor FREELING to Governor Sir BENJAMIN C. C. PINE.

(No. 49.)

SIR, Government House, Roseau, June 16, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book for 1869, the accuracy of which has been certified by the Colonial Secretary, together with my Report thereon.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency Sir Benjamin Pine, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) S. FREELING,
Lieut.-Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK RETURNS OF DOMINICA FOR THE YEAR 1869.

Revenue.

The revenue for the year amounted to 15,620*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*; the expenditure to 13,947*l.* 16*s.* 7½*d.*

In 1868, the revenue was 14,842*l.* 4*s.* 11½*d.*; expenditure, 12,894*l.* 13*s.* 11½*d.*

The principal items on which there has been an excess of revenue are :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Tonnage duties	91	18	0
Import duty	404	19	8
Excise duty on rum consumed	249	8	11
Road composition tax	200	6	0

The only decrease of revenue of importance is 308*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* on liquor and still licences.

Expenditure.

The increased expenditure has been chiefly on

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Civil establishment	210	17	11
Works and buildings	921	14	11
Board of Health	144	4	8
Printing and stationery	185	19	4

This increase has arisen as follows :—

Civil Establishment.

At the close of the year 1868, the offices of Colonial Secretary and Colonial Registrar, then held by the same officer, were divided, and a Colonial Registrar was appointed at a salary of 240*l.* per annum; the fees formerly retained by that officer are now paid to the revenue.

The salary of a District Police Magistrate which, to April, 1869, had been defrayed by the Home Government, is now paid by the Colony (250*l.*).

The excess of expenditure under this head would have been much greater, had it not happened that three public officers died during the first half of the year, viz. the Treasurer, a Police Magistrate, and a Medical Officer, from which cause the half-salaries of the two former were saved to the Colony for the remainder of the year, and the half-salary of the latter officer for a portion of the year.

* * * * * * *

Board of Health.

The excess arose from payment in 1869 of claims of 1868, during which year a rigid quarantine was in force against the neighbouring islands.

Printing and Stationery.

Some claims of 1868 were settled in 1869, and books for the Treasury department, and for the Registrars of Births, &c., were procured; the books have to be purchased only once in several years.

Public Debt.

The amount which was due to the Colonial Bank, and to other creditors on account of the loan of 1866, has been liquidated.

The amount due to the Imperial Government on account of the Hurricane Loan, 1836, was, at the close of the past year, 8,838*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, to be paid in annual instalments of 804*l.*

Public Works.

Many of the buildings were repaired last year; many are now in course of repair; and I anticipate in the ensuing year, only a comparatively small expenditure, so far as the buildings are concerned.

Bridges and a new jetty are urgently required; but the finances of the Colony are not at present in a condition to warrant the necessary outlay of money.

Legislation.

Nineteen laws were passed. None of them are of importance, except the "Act for "amending the law relating to the coasting trade and merchant shipping in British "possessions." This Act will tend to facilitate commerce, and is a boon both to importers and exporters.

Population.

The Registrar-General returns the population at 27,124.

There were—

746 births	against	783	in 1868
92 marriages	„	98	„
504 deaths	„	500	„

Education.

There are 17 Government schools.

The number of scholars is as follows:—Boys, 826; girls, 363; showing a difference of 36 less than the preceding year.

The schools in Roseau are admirably conducted.

I have not been able, for some time past, to inspect the country schools, as it entails a journey round the Island on horseback, occupying more time than I can spare from my other duties; but the Inspector reports satisfactorily upon them.

Imports.

The total declared value of imports was 64,765*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* in 1869, against 57,180*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.* in 1868.

The value of imports direct from the United Kingdom was 27,776*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*; British Colonies, 28,977*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*; foreign countries, 8,418*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*

The imports from the United Kingdom exceeded those of the former year by 3,955*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*; from the British Colonies, by 1,592*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*; and from foreign countries, by 2,036*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*

Exports.

The declared value of exports was 57,831*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*, against 111,876*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* in 1868, viz. to Great Britain, 53,568*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*; British Colonies, 2,552*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*; foreign countries, 1,709*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

The value of exports to Great Britain appears to have decreased by 48,269*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*; this is chiefly attributable to the high rate at which the value of sugar was estimated in 1868.

The quantity of sugar exported to Great Britain was less than that of the previous year by 447 cwt. 0 qrs. 11 lbs. The decrease on rum was 6,953 gallons.

Shipping.

The shipping returns show:—

	WITH CARGO, INWARDS.					
	1868.			1869.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.
From Great Britain - -	26	6,925	94	15	3,026	123
„ British Colonies -	72	3,241	355	92	3,510	408
„ Foreign Countries -	134	8,598	382	153	3,006	550
	IN BALLAST, INWARDS.					
From Great Britain - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ British Colonies -	40	563	116	47	623	139
„ Foreign Countries -	52	1,007	163	60	1,565	187
Total - -	324	20,334	1,110	367	11,730	1,407
	WITH CARGO, OUTWARDS.					
	1868.			1869.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.
To Great Britain - -	14	3,303	141	16	3,145	136
„ British Colonies -	100	3,043	398	130	3,273	500
„ Foreign Countries -	125	1,946	385	150	2,111	520
	IN BALLAST, OUTWARDS.					
To Great Britain - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ British Colonies -	16	281	50	23	565	90
„ Foreign Countries -	29	543	106	46	1,434	155
Total - -	284	9,116	1,080	365	10,528	1,401

Cultivated and Uncultivated Lands.

The estimated acreage of the Colony is 186,436 acres; I regret that I am still unable to ascertain the amount that is cultivated and uncultivated.

Gaols and Prisoners.

There is only one gaol in the Island—it is at Roseau.

There were 285 prisoners committed during that year: of this number there were, debtors, 41; road defaulters, 55; petty thefts, 48; other offences, 141; total, 285.

The strict enforcement of the prison rules, which I insisted upon at the close of the past year, and the introduction of certain other measures, are only this year beginning to show beneficial results.

Formerly, when the sentence of a magistrate was a fine, or the alternative of imprisonment, the fine was seldom paid, imprisonment being preferred; now fines are more frequently paid, and the prison is at last dreaded.

Charitable Institutions.

These comprise the Poor House, the Lunatic Asylum, the Infirmary, and the Orphanage. On these I have nothing new to report that is worthy of note.

General Remarks.

In the Report accompanying the Blue Book of 1868, I remarked upon the evils of the squatting system: these evils still exist, because the measures by which I had proposed to abolish them are postponed, pending the formation of the Leeward Islands into a Federation.

The present intermediate and unsettled state of affairs is such as to prevent my reporting much on the probable future of this Island, and my not doing so is unimportant, as his Excellency Sir Benjamin Pine will have fully reported on the

DOMINICA.

benefits which are likely to accrue to the Islands generally from Federation. I therefore confine myself to expressing my opinion that to Dominica it will prove of essential benefit.

There is another subject which is important, viz. the recent reduction of the sugar duties in the United Kingdom. I fear that this reduction of duty will, instead of proving beneficial to this Island, prove the reverse, as the difference between the duty on the best as well as the lowest quality of sugar is now so small that refiners will find it to be to their advantage to buy the better sort instead of the inferior quality, which this Island produces. This sugar is also unsuited for grocery purposes, and it is, therefore, probable that there will be a considerable falling off in prices, or a difficulty in effecting sales. Should such be the case, what can be done to counteract this misfortune? To make good sugar, the vacuum pan system or other expensive machinery is necessary.

Most of the sugar estates are small, very many are hemmed in by mountains, and it is only on a few that cultivation could be much extended.

Even were there capital in the island, expensive sugar apparatus would probably not pay, except on two or three of the larger estates.

The establishment of central manufactories of sugar, such as are in operation in the neighbouring French Islands, appears to me to afford the best prospect to owners of sugar estates here; but even this plan presents many obstacles—a very important one being the difficulty of transport, which on account of the formation of the Island, renders road making both difficult and costly.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) S. FREELING,
Lieut.-Governor.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

REPORTS

SHOWING THE

PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS

For the Year 1869.

PART II.

NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES;
AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA;
AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND;
THE MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS, &c.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
1871.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES & SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1871.

[*C.*—415.] *Price* 1*s.* 4*d.*

SCHEDULE.

PART II.

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NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

CANADA.

No. 1.

DOMINION OF CANADA

No. 1.

STATISTICS OF CANADA FOR THE YEAR 1868–9.

STATEMENTS AS TO THE AREA, POPULATION, DEBT, REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, IMPORTS, AND EXPORTS OF CANADA.

	Area in Square Miles.
Ontario*	121,260
Quebec*	210,020
Nova Scotia	18,660
New Brunswick	27,105
Total	377,045

* As the Northern and Western boundaries have not yet been surveyed, these areas are only approximate.

	Population in 1852.	Population in January, 1861.	Ratio of Annual Increase.	Estimated Population in January, 1869, assuming same rate of increase. 1869.
			per cent.	
Ontario	952,004	1,396,091	4·34	1,962,067
Quebec	890,261	1,111,566	2·50	1,356,340
Nova Scotia (1851)	276,117	330,857	1·82	382,365
New Brunswick (1851)	193,800	252,047	2·66	311,017
Total	2,312,182	3,090,561	3·28	4,011,789

	Revenue of Consolidated Fund.	Expenditure of Consolidated Fund.	Public Debt, less Sinking Funds, &c.	Imports.		Exports.
				Value of Goods Entered for Consumption.	Duty accrued.	Total Value.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
1868–9	14,485,139	14,144,049	77,963,043	67,402,170	8,298,909	60,474,781

	Population to the Square Mile.	Revenue per Head of the Population.	Expenditure per Head of the Population.	Debt per Head of the Population.	Imports per Head of the Population.	Duty per Head of the Population.	Exports per Head of the Population.
		$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.
1868–9	10·64	3 61	3 53	19 43	14 80	2 07	15 08

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 2.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 2.

(No Report for 1869 received.)

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 3.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 3.

(No Report for 1869 received.)

BERMUDA.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir F. E. CHAPMAN to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 24.)

MY LORD, Government House, Bermuda, April 7, 1870.

IN forwarding the Blue Book of this Colony for the year ending December 31, 1869, I have the honour to submit the following observations:— Blue Book, 1869.

1. With respect to taxes and duties. These have remained at the same rates as those fixed by the Legislature, Act. 2, Session 2 of 1866; and the amounts raised under that Act have for the last three years been as follows:—

1867.		1868.		1869.
£16,964	-	£19,855	-	£21,925

showing in 1869 an increase of upwards of 2,000*l.* over 1868, and of nearly 5,000*l.* above 1867.

2. *Revenue.*

The revenue for the same periods have been in—

1867.		1868.		1869.
£24,268	-	£36,110	-	£30,040

From which it would appear that the revenue in 1868 was considerably larger than in 1869; but this is to be accounted for by 9,000*l.* having been borrowed in the former year for public works, against 1,000*l.* obtained for a similar object in the latter year. Omitting this exceptional year of 1868, the revenue of the past year will therefore contrast favourably with that of 1867.

3. *Expenditure.*

The expenditure for the last three years has been in—

1867.		1868.		1869.
£23,219	-	£37,231	-	£32,039

4. *Exports and Imports.*

The value of exports for the last three years has been in—

1867.		1868.		1869.
£22,832	-	£33,875	-	£33,624

whilst the imports for the same were in value, in—

1867.		1868.		1869.
£200,817	-	£199,930	-	£212,811

5. *Public Works.*

The only public work which has been in course of construction during the year is the causeway between St. George's, Long Bird Island, and Walsingham, the object of which having been communicated to your Lordship in my Despatches covering the Blue Books for 1867 and 1868, I will not repeat; but I have the satisfaction of reporting that the work has steadily progressed and will probably be completed by the end of the present year 1870.

The total expense for this causeway has been defrayed from the local treasury; but as the advantages to be derived from it, in a military point of view, are superior to those which the Colony can expect to obtain, I trust the Imperial Government may be induced to contribute towards the outlay.

BERMUDA.

6. *Education.*

In my remarks on the Blue Book of 1868, I acquainted your Lordship with the provisions which had been made by the Legislature of 1867, in aid of education. The regulations enacted by the Council have resulted in ensuring a greater proficiency in the pupils; and although the gross numbers attending the schools have somewhat diminished from those of 1867, I have reason to believe that education of the lower classes in these islands is progressing favourably.

7. *Products.*

The products of this Colony consist chiefly of onions, tomatoes, potatoes, and arrowroot, for which ready markets are found in the United States; and as the Legislature has granted a handsome subsidy to encourage steam communication between Bermuda and New York, it is to be hoped that this will be maintained, and the farmers be disposed to export more largely than heretofore, when they had only to depend on sailing vessels for transmitting their fruits and vegetables to the neighbouring continent.

I have, &c.,

The Earl Granville, K.G., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) F. E. CHAPMAN.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

No. 5.

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor MUSGRAVE to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 100.)

MY LORD, Government House, British Columbia, August 5, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of British Columbia for the year 1869, with an able report upon these annual returns, which has been prepared by Mr. Charles Good, the Assistant Colonial Secretary.

I could add but little with any advantage to the observations of Mr. Good, and the comparisons which he has given with former years, beyond what is already known to your Lordship of the state of the Colony from previous correspondence. I was resident in the community but a short portion of the period to which these returns relate, and the public business had already been arranged and had assumed its general character for the year, before my arrival.

2. The Colony now is in a state of transition to union with the Dominion of Canada, which must greatly modify existing political arrangements; and will, I cannot doubt, most favourably affect the material progress of the community; but on the questions arising from the present condition of affairs, I can best address your Lordship in separate Despatches.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) A. MUSGRAVE.

SIR, Colonial Secretary's Office, July 1, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of the Blue Book for the year 1869, and to append a few remarks, comparing the present returns with those of the previous year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The total revenue from all sources during 1869 amounted to $530,479. That of the previous year reached a total of $585,547, showing a falling off in the revenue for the year 1869 of over $50,000. On referring to the comparative statement of revenue for the two years, under their respective heads, it will be seen that this decrease runs regularly through the list, and that the Customs, road tolls, Excise duties, land sales, mining receipts, and licences are in every instance less than in the previous year. It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that population and trade must have declined during the year, but it is not so easy to arrive at the reasons for this decline, for on examining

the agricultural and other returns, to which I propose to draw more particular attention under their respective heads, it will be found that very considerable progress was made in the year, that much land was occupied and broken up, stock raising more pursued, milling and coal mining improving, and the general settlement of the country much advanced.

Under these circumstances it seems almost impossible to account for the decline which is apparent. If I might venture to express my own views, I should be inclined to attribute it to three causes :—

1st. The lack of immigrants of the class to which British institutions are palatable.

2nd. The superior attractions of California and the neighbouring territory of the United States.

3rd. The fact that nearly all the immigrants who have arrived here during the past six years were of the artisan class. No doubt that many families have left the Colony, but they consisted of shoemakers, carpenters, tailors, auctioneers, accountants, clerks, blacksmiths, hotel and bar keepers; none of them were willing or, perhaps, fit to settle on land, and having all in the first instance come hither *from* California, and finding no remunerative employment in Victoria (the place being already overstocked with people of their own class), soon made up their minds to return *to* California, with the institutions of which they were thoroughly familiar. I am of opinion that the decline of the revenue in 1869 must not be taken as evidence of a corresponding decline in the general welfare of the Colony.

The revenue of 1868 was, as I stated at the time, exceptionally large; but the revenue for 1869, *viz.* $530,479, compares favourably with that of 1867, *viz.* $483,105, showing an increase of $50,000 in favour of 1869. If any means can be devised whereby British immigrants and British capital could be introduced into the Colony without first passing through American portals, the rise and prosperity of British Columbia would not be far distant.

There can be little doubt that a ready communication with Canada, first by a good waggon road kept open all the year through, and then by a railroad, would have the desired effect; whether these results will follow confederation remains to be seen; without them confederation will exist only in name.

The expenditure of the year amounted to $474,633, as against $469,061 in the previous year; arrears being in both cases omitted.

This increase was wholly due to incidental and unforoseen requirements, such as the funeral of the late Governor, the subsidy to keep open telegraphic communication, and the establishment of a Branch Assay Office at Cariboo. The expenditure on salaries was less than in the previous year by some $5,000, the office of Harbour Master and that of the Stipendiary Magistrate, Columbia River, having been done away with.

The revenue having been stated at $530,479, and the expenditure at $474,633, it would appear that a considerable surplus, not less than $60,000, should have remained at the end of the year to the credit of the Colony. There being in reality no such surplus is to be explained by the fact of the current account of the Colony with the Bank having been some $60,000 overdrawn at the commencement of the year, and having been subsequently much reduced. The payments, too, made on account of Sinking Fund are not all brought to account within the year, though the money was actually remitted to the Crown agents during the year 1869. An increase of $8,958 took place in the expenditure on public roads, and a decrease of $12,536 on Works and Buildings. I am not aware of any other items of revenue or expenditure demanding particular notice.

Public Debt.

A slight increase was made to the public debt in 1869 ; such increase, however, was more apparent than real. The establishment of a Government Savings Bank in 1869 has been followed by satisfactory results, $41,000 having been received during the six months of the year ending 31st December, 1869, that the banks were open. This sum, borrowed at 6 per cent. per annum, has enabled the Government to pay off the overdraft at the Bank to a like amount, which cost 12 per cent. per annum for interest. This sum of $41,000 appears for the first time in the list of Public Debts, whereas the overdrawn Bank account, fluctuating every day, did not originally appear in the list. This increase is thus only apparent, the Bank debt having existed for years. The usual payments were made during the year on account of Sinking Fund and interest. The sums actually accumulated towards paying off the public loans amounted, at the end of the year, to over $300,000, the original debt being $1,164,000. The Loan of 1862, for $242,500,

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

will have been redeemed in 1872, and the Colony freed from a yearly drain of $14,520 for interest, and $22,500 for Sinking Fund, or in round numbers, a yearly sum of $40,000 will be saved to the Colony, and an incalculable boon obtained in the public works, which such a yearly expenditure would enable the Government to carry out.

Public Works.

No public works of importance were undertaken in 1869, further than the general repair of the road system throughout the Colony, which was effected at a cost of about $49,000.

Legislation.

Ordinances to the number of twenty-eight were passed in the Session of the Legislative Council held in 1869. Those chiefly deserving notice for their utility or novelty are the Savings Bank, Health, Supreme Court, Road, Common Schools, Mineral Land, and Loan Investment Ordinances.

The Savings Bank Ordinance was introduced by the Government in order to procure money at less than the exorbitant rate of interest, *viz.* 12 per cent. per annum, charged by the Bank on the overdrawn Government account. The Government gives 6 per cent. to the Savings Bank Commissioners, and a saving of some $8,000 or $10,000 a year is thus effected. The Commissioners allow 5 per cent. to depositors, and have thus a margin of 1 per cent. to cover expenses. The Ordinance appears to work well, and already $60,000 has been received under its provisions.

The Health Ordinance was rendered necessary in consequence of the ravages of small-pox in previous years. It was found that no competent power was vested in the municipal authorities to abate nuisances, or to take effective sanitary measures. These powers have been conferred by the Ordinance in question.

The Supreme Court Ordinance provided for the merging of the two distinct jurisdictions of British Columbia and Vancouvers Island (on the death or promotion of either of the then Judges) into one Supreme Court, under the surviving or remaining Judge, a purpose which has since been happily carried into effect under the Ordinance.

The Road Ordinance provides for the repairs, maintenance, and construction of district roads, by a fund raised by a tax of $4 per 100 acres on property in the districts, and disbursed by the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works. The Ordinance is a useful one, and has already resulted beneficially.

The Common Schools Ordinance was a tentative measure, intended to lay the foundation of a general school system throughout the Colony. It was roughly and hurriedly thrown together, but served its purpose by initiating the proposed system, and will, no doubt, be altered and amended as occasion demands. It places the control of schools in the hands of the Governor in Council, and provides for the election of local Boards in school districts, and for a public grant of $500 per annum in aid of the support of the schools, provided the district has made like provision by school fees or tax.

The most important Ordinance of the Session, however, was the Mineral Land Ordinance. A want has been long felt for a liberal and full measure governing the taking up of silver, copper, coal, and other mineral lands. The provisions of this Ordinance are liberal, both as to the area that may be pre-empted or purchased for mining purposes, as to the price of land and rents for leases; and if the requisite capital offers will be found highly instrumental in furthering the development of our mineral resources.

The Volunteer, Anatomy, Cattle Protection Oaths, Partnership, Fire Companies, and Religious Institutions Ordinances, are useful and necessary enactments, but appear to require no special notice.

The legislation of 1869 compares favourably in utility and careful consideration with that of previous years.

Population.

The total population of the Colony, as estimated from the magisterial returns, is 10,496, exclusive of natives. Of this number, 5,925 are males, 2,624 are females, and 1,947 Chinese. I have had occasion in previous reports to call attention to the possible inaccuracy of these reports.

The magistrates collect all the information in their power; but there are many miners and others roaming in the distant and unsettled portions of the Colony, many traders and fishermen on the coast, whom it is impossible to include in any census, and who would add considerably to the total number given.

The Indian population is variously estimated from 30,000 to 50,000, but the ravages of small-pox have thinned their ranks materially in the few past years.

Savings Banks.

Savings banks under the Ordinance of 1869 were established in that year at Victoria, Nanaimo, New Westminster, Cariboo, and Yale. These banks are kept up without expense, being conducted by various Government officers.

The rate of interest payable to depositors is 5 per cent. per annum, the interest being computed monthly. Deposits over $1,000 in all are not admissible. The amount deposited during the six months ending 31st December last was $41,000, and the number of depositors 215. There is every reason to consider the banks as a great boon to the working classes, and no doubt is entertained of the success of the undertaking.

Education.

Under the Common Schools Ordinance, 1869, which provides that a grant of not more than $500 per annum shall be payable towards the support of each school in operation, provided the remainder of the sum required to keep up the school be guaranteed by the inhabitants of the district, twelve schools were put in operation, with a total of children, taking the benefit of the education thus afforded amounting to 302.

The system adopted is strictly non-sectarian.

The management of the schools is vested in inspectors, in connection with local Boards, the final determination of all questions being in the hands of the Governor in Council.

The change from a system of entirely free education which formerly existed in Vancouver Island, to one partially self-supporting, was felt at first to be a hardship, but the people finding it necessary to help themselves, have by degrees taken matters in hand, and a more general interest is being exhibited in the movement, and new schools are being organized every month.

Imports.

The value of the imports in 1869 amounted to $1,776,622, as against $2,338,080 in 1868, showing a deficiency of $561,458 in 1869. There can be no reasonable doubt that trade and population declined during that year, though the large amount of home-grown produce now raised in the Colony, which is daily increasing, naturally, in the first instance, leads to a decrease in the imports, while in due course it will operate to increase them in other ways. It may also be remarked that the imports of 1868 were unusually large, those of 1867 being only $1,687,668, so that taking this fact for granted (and I find that in my report for that year I expressed my opinion to that effect), the imports of 1869 show a fair increase, *viz.* $100,000 over those of 1867.

Exports.

The total value of articles exported from the Colony in 1869 was $719,203; in 1868 they amounted to $750,000.

The following table points out the chief articles of export in the years 1868 and 1869, with their respective values:—

1868.		1869.	
Article.	Value.	Article.	Value.
			$
Furs - - -	210,700	Furs - - -	233,682
Lumber - - -	189,990	Lumber - - -	250,885
Coal - - -	204,545	Coal - - -	119,820
Fish - - -	7,865	Fish - - -	4,603
Fish-oil - -	27,705	Fish-oil - -	22,527
Cranberries - -	1,757	Cranberries - -	10,970
Merchandize -	107,438	Merchandize -	76,714

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

It will be seen from a glance at this return that the total exports of articles raised in the Colony are nearly identical, the falling off being in the trade of Victoria, in articles first imported from England and elsewhere. A marked increase took place in the export of furs and lumber, $23,000 in the former, and $80,000 in the latter article. The decrease in the export of coal is to be put down to the fluctuation in the San Francisco market, on which we entirely depend.

It is impossible to avoid remarking here the immense influence that a free market for our coal and lumber in the United States would have upon us; as it is, all our productions have to fight against a large import duty in our only market, while the coal of Bellingham Bay, and the lumber of Puget Sound, raised and shipped within 100 miles of our own coal-fields and timber forests, enter San Francisco free of duty. There can be no doubt that in the event of confederation with the Dominion of Canada, reciprocity with the United States will form one of the first subjects to engage the attention of Canadian statesmen.

Agriculture.

Agriculture and the settlement of the waste lands of the Colony made considerable advances in 1869. The following table of the amount of land under cultivation, and the number of horses, cattle, &c., exhibits a fair proportionate advance.

It does not, however, give a complete record of all that has been done. In the early stage of a Colony, all that a settler can do in the first year is to build himself a house and turn up a few acres of land.

The advantages of his actually settling are not to be computed from these primary results, but the individual efforts of each settler, when taken collectively, tell considerably on the general prospects of the Colony.

Stock.	1867.	1868.	1869.
	No.	No.	No.
Horses - -	3,847	5,779	5,479
Cattle - - -	14,840	22,179	23,765
Sheep - -	5,313	3,189	11,846
Pigs - - -	7,952	8,900	9,086
Total - -	31,952	45,047	49,175
Cereals.	**Acres.**	**Acres.**	**Acres.**
Oats - -	2,579	3,403	4,525
Wheat - -	2,832	4,290	4,508
Barley - -	2,713	3,269	3,603
Total - -	8,124	10,562	12,636

More activity was displayed in 1869 in taking up land than in many previous years, more particularly in the fertile delta of the Fraser, which for many years has remained totally unoccupied. It would be difficult now to obtain a homestead in this spot, though the total area is some 100 square miles.

The grass of the country is admirably adapted for fattening cattle, and the miners at Cariboo complain of the disproportion of the fat and lean in the meat which is supplied to them. Wheat, barley, oats, and other cereals, ripen readily, and give a return seldom less than forty bushels, and often more, to the acre, while remunerative prices are obtained both for the grain and the meal that is manufactured from it in the Colony. I think it can safely be asserted that no interests in the Colony bear a more healthy aspect than those of agriculture and stock raising.

Mining.

The yield of gold in 1869 was, perhaps, a little less than in previous years, but yet quite proportionate to the mining population. I find from authentic Bank returns, that the following sums were exported:—

	$
Bank of British North America - - - - - -	597,425
Bank of British Columbia - - - - - - -	495,576·60
Wells Furgo and Co. - - - - - - - -	1,324,871·84
	$2,417,873·44
To this must be added gold shipped by private hands, remaining in the country, or sent out from Kootenay and the southern boundary, a fair estimate of which would be - - - -	1,000,000·00
	$3,417,873·44

The estimate of previous years has not been above $3,500,000.

The area of the known gold-fields has been considerably extended, and now reaches from the 49th to the 53rd parallel of N. latitude, running over a belt of from 100 to 200 miles wide. During 1869 the first quartz mill was erected at Cariboo, more with the view of enabling the discoverers of leads to test the value of the rock than to crush quartz of established value.

Many promising veins have been discovered; at present, however, nothing definite as to their value can be stated, nor have the results indicated clearly the wealth that lies dormant. A wide field lies open in this direction for utilizing to enormous profit idle capital; but this era has not yet arrived for British Columbia, and meantime the development of the country drags along with weary halting steps, to such an extent that it requires the nicest discrimination to point out the actual advance of any one year over its predecessor, and abiding faith in the Colony and its resources, to admit that any progress has taken place at all.

The yield of the Nanaimo coal-mines in 1869 was about 40,883 tons, as against 43,000 tons in the previous year. This falling off arose from the great fluctuation and depreciation in the price of coal in San Francisco, our chief export market. The company have wisely determined to lower the price of their coal in that market, and it is highly probable that the result will be a largely increased export. The price of coal at the pit's mouth in 1869 was 24*s.* per ton, it is now to be reduced to 20*s.* per ton.

The anthracite of Queen Charlotte's Island is deserving of particular notice, though the fact of the original shareholders in the company having spent so much capital at the outset in what may fairly be said to be an injudicious manner, renders the chance of their bringing much coal to market doubtful.

This company, after three years' hard struggle, have managed to collect and mis-spend 20,000*l.* There is no doubt about the value of the coal; it contains some 75 per cent. of carbon, and is equal for furnace purposes to the Pennsylvania anthracite, but to properly develop and work the mine would require an outlay of at least 100,000*l.*, a sum which in England would be subscribed to a doubtful undertaking by one firm in a day, while here it is actually impossible to obtain such a sum on the most promising scheme.

We have no channel through which British capital can reach us, and American capitalists are not satisfied with the steady habits and cautious proceedings of British communities; they require unlimited concessions and unfettered action, and failing to obtain these, refuse to invest their capital with us. The Mineral Law of 1869 has, however, swept away many of the restrictions heretofore imposed, and if not actually in concert with American views, is, at least, open to many less objections than our former system of dealing with mines and minerals.

In lumbering, a most important feature in the future of British Columbia, I am glad to find that there was no retrograde movement in 1869. The actual exports of spars and lumber reached a total value of $250,885, as against $173,711 in 1868, showing an increase of nearly $80,000.

Police and Gaols.

No change has taken place in the condition of the prisons of Victoria and New Westminster. The health of the inmates has been excellent, and the prisons continue to be clean and well conducted.

No increase of crime took place in 1869.

There were only eight capital convictions, all on Indians, Chinamen, or Kanakas, five felonies, four minor offences. This state of affairs adds weight to the opinion often expressed that this Colony is distinguished for an absence of crime beyond all Her Majesty's possessions, due in a great measure, I believe, to the stringent and unvarying

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

severity of the sentences passed by our able Chief Justice, Mr. Begbie, on all violent crimes, since 1859. This appears in strong contrast to the absurd lenity of the sentences passed in the neighbouring territory, in which life is never secure, and breach of the law is the rule rather than the exception.

Conclusion.

In reviewing the general condition of the Colony for 1869, as manifested by the above returns, it is, as I have said, impossible to avoid the conclusion that we have lost population, that trade has slackened, and that the revenue has, in consequence, decreased.

If these facts stood alone, and there were no compensating indications of progress, I should not be inclined, nor, indeed, would anyone be justified, in speaking hopefully of our prospects. But when I see agriculture and settlement steadily on the increase, lumbering and milling interests materially progressing, the limits of our gold-fields largely extended, new coal-fields developed, whaling and other fisheries prosecuted with moderate but growing vigour, it is not unreasonable to conclude that the country has some vitality left, and that it only requires opening up, and a chance of securing population and capital, to become highly wealthy and prosperous. Perhaps the confederation of this Colony with the Dominion of Canada, which is now confidently looked for, may effect all this, at any rate it ought to assist us. Without doubt the completion of a railway through the territory of British North America, from Atlantic to Pacific, could not fail to add largely to our prosperity.

Our debts are being repaid with regularity, and in two or three years, even without confederation, this most oppressive drain on our revenue will have been removed.

I attach, however, the utmost importance, as regards our future welfare, to the beneficial change that has lately taken place in the mother-country's appreciation of her Colonial possessions, and to the steady growth in the minds of the British public of the idea that the welfare of her Colonies is of the last importance to Great Britain.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES GOOD,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

His Honour the Officer Administering the Government.

AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

Sierra Leone.

No. 6.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 6.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to The Earl Granville, K.G.

(No. 91.)

My Lord, Government House, Sierra Leone, June 7, 1870.

I have the honour to transmit the duplicate copy of the annual Blue Book of the Settlement of Sierra Leone for the year 1869.

The revenue has increased from 59,272*l.* in 1868 to 69,624*l.* in 1869, with every prospect of a still further increase.

There is no public debt.

Measures are in contemplation for a large reduction in the military expenditure of all the Settlements.

Public works of various, and many of a remunerative, kinds are required. Some are in progress, and others have been completed out of the current revenue.

The services of a Director of Public Instruction have been obtained, and a public school on an improved scale opened. The building is the most commodious in the Settlement.

Considerable improvements have been effected in the discipline and management of the gaol,—a matter surrounded with difficulty in this country and climate.

The the trade of this Settlement and the produce exported from the Sierra Leone River is, I believe, considerably in excess of what it has ever been, resulting mainly from the establishment of peace with the surrounding countries.

European travellers can now proceed, not only unmolested, but protected by native Chiefs as far inland as the source of the Niger and Sangara country.

The rapid increase of trade is evidenced by the number of steamers now running between England and this Settlement and the Leeward coast.

The resources of the Sherbro District are being rapidly developed.

The people are loyal, orderly, and progressing in industry. There is little or no destitution as known in more civilized communities; and there is no serious crime. The public business is fairly transacted often under great difficulties.

Her Majesty's Settlements on the West Coast of Africa generally (all of which I have visited during the year) were never in a more prosperous condition.

I have, &c.

The Earl Granville, K.G., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY, Governor-in-Chief.

Gambia.

No. 7.

GAMBIA.

No. 7.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to The Earl Granville, K.G.

(No. 46.)

My Lord, Sierra Leone, June 22, 1870.

I have the honour to transmit herewith the duplicate Blue Book for the Gambia Settlement for the year 1869, accompanied by the Administrator's Report thereon.

Gambia, No. 48. 23 May, 1870.

The details of this Book are a confirmation of the opinions I have expressed in previous correspondence in reference to the financial future of this Settlement.

I have, &c.,

The Earl Granville, K.G., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY, Governor-in-Chief.

(No. 48.)

GAMBIA.

SIR, Government House, Gambia, May 23, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1869.

The sources of revenue have not been changed for the past three years.

Fees.

I find that fees are part of the emoluments of some of the public officers, which I need hardly point out is a principle not generally approved of; and steps, I am glad to say, are being taken to rectify the practice.

Revenue and Expenditure.

There was a deficit of 4,178*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* in the revenue, attributable to the extraordinary falling off in the Customs receipts, and is due to the decrease of importation as well as to an exceeding bad ground-nut crop, the duty on the latter realizing only 2,342*l.*, compared with 4,029*l.* of the previous year. The stocks of goods in the hands of the merchants were found sufficient for the season's trade without fresh supplies, but such an exceptional state of things will not, I trust, happen again. The serious cholera epidemic must also be taken into account, as it entailed an unforeseen expenditure of over 1,000*l.* on the Colony; but it is unnecessary for me to review that subject, as much has already been written about it. The cost of the establishments is somewhat beyond that of the previous year, in consequence of some appointments being filled up where death vacancies had occurred, or where they had been in abeyance.

Public Works.

Government House underwent considerable repairs, as well as the other public buildings. A wall was built round the Colonial Hospital, and public latrines were erected, besides the embankment at half-die, broken in by the sea, being repaired. The epidemic interfered with the progress of many of the works, and raised the rate of wages 100 per cent., which made it prudent to discontinue all works not imperatively required to be carried on.

Legislation.

An Order in Council, removing doubts as to the legality of the proceedings of the Legislative Council, was promulgated. The usual Supply Ordinances, and an Ordinance to extend the Customs Tariff Ordinance of 1866, were enacted during the year. An Ordinance providing for the duties hitherto performed by two Justices of the Peace to be undertaken by the Chief Magistrate, has had a very beneficial effect, and is found to work exceedingly well. There were two other Ordinances passed, *viz.* an Ordinance simplifying the forms of Promissory Oaths, and an Ordinance to abolish the present application of Penalties and Forfeitures under the Customs Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations, and to make other provision in lieu thereof.

Population.

Suffered considerably by the epidemic, but it being of a migratory character, no very great change is perceptible.

Education.

Since the appointment of the Colonial Chaplain, a native pastor, great activity has been displayed in the cause of education, and it is satisfactory to witness the result that has attended the opening of the schools under Mr. Nicol.

Imports and Exports.

A great decrease is noticeable under these heads. Value of—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Imports for 1868 - -	144,524	7	3
Ditto 1869 - - -	94,027	11	1
Decrease of - -	£50,496	16	2

GAMBIA.

	£	s.	d.
Exports for 1868 - -	187,357	14	4
Ditto 1869 - - -	91,998	5	2
	£95,359	9	2

This sufficiently points out the unsatisfactory nature of last year's transactions, and was caused by a very wretched crop of ground-nuts, the importation of specie in lieu of goods, and absorption of old stocks on hand.

Shipping

shows an increase of ships entered and cleared from Great Britain, accounted for by an extra monthly steamer being contracted for to call at this port.

Gaols and Prisoners.

A slight increase in the number of committals and offenders is observable, which was no doubt owing to the disorganized state the population were thrown into by the epidemic. The Gaol is in a very satisfactory condition, and the fact of the prisoners passing through the epidemic unscathed, although employed in digging the trenches and cleaning out infected houses, is sufficient proof that they have not been neglected, and that sanitary measures are not wanting in their case.

In reviewing the Colony for the past year, it is at least satisfactory to be aware of the causes which produced so exceptional a year. The primary one of a bad crop is to be expected in the vicissitudes of a Colony; the other is not likely to happen again for a long period, as the old stocks on the hands of the merchants have been exhausted, so that the annual supply of importation will be continued till perhaps another accumulation takes place, when a similar result may happen; if coupled with an unfavourable harvest and a cholera epidemic. The introduction of specie will interfere with the importation of goods, but when it very materially affects the Customs receipts, other means will have to be adopted for counteracting that result to the revenue.

The year 1869 can only be considered a very unfortunate one, but I look with confidence to its successor to re-establish the equilibrium which was so seriously disturbed; and it is satisfactory to add that the deficiency which occurred has been met by the surplus balances in hand, besides leaving a credit at the commencement of the present year.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ALEXANDER BRAVO,
Administrator.

His Excellency Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
Governor-in-Chief.

GOLD COAST.

No. 8.

GOLD COAST.

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir ARTHUR KENNEDY, C.B., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 97.)

Government House, October 2, 1870.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit duplicate Blue Book of Gold Coast for the year 1869, accompanied by the Administrator's Report thereon.

No. 136, Sept. 21, 1870.

I think it unnecessary to trouble your Lordship with any remarks upon a Report which is in every way satisfactory.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor-in-Chief.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 136.) GOLD COAST.

SIR, Government House, Cape Coast, September 21, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency my Report on the Blue Book for the year 1869.

Taxes, Duties, and other Sources of Revenue.

The year 1869 has been marked by no changes under this head, the Convention with Holland remaining in force, and no additional local taxation having been imposed.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The returns show a large and steady general increase in the revenue. The expenditure is also considerably larger than in the previous years, which is owing to improved relations with the interior, and consequent additional charges under the head of Aborigines. Several special payments and some public works tend to make up the increase.

Public Debt.

The Settlement has no debts. There is now generally a large sum to the credit of the local Government with the Crown Agents, as well as a considerable cash balance in the public chest.

Military Expenditure.

The military expenditure has been considerably reduced, and it is expected that the presence of the troops will shortly be dispensed with.

Public Works.

The improvements in the streets at Cape Coast have been very marked during this year. A public wharf at Accra, and a good road at Salt Pond, near Anamaboe, have added largely to the facilities for traders in the districts. Larger works are now in progress, such as the reconstruction of Fort James and the civil prison at Accra, a market-place and lighthouse at the same station, and the complete repair of the military barracks at Accra, at the expense of the Colonial Government.

Legislation.

The Ordinances passed during the year 1869 are as under, and call for no special remark.

No. I.—An Ordinance to repeal an Ordinance No. 1 of 1860 (imposing duty of puncheon packs).

No. II.—Consolidating sundry spirit-licence Ordinances.

No. III.—Repealing anchorage dues.

No. IV.—Abolishing application of certain penalties for smuggling.

No. V.—Making further provision for service of the Settlement for 1869.

No. VI.—Simplifying forms of promissory oaths.

No. VII.—Consolidating all Ordinances relative to licences for dealing in wines and spirits.

Civil Establishment.

Several changes have taken place in the establishments, amongst the most noteworthy the appointment of Mr. Simpson, the Collector of Customs, to be Collector at the Gambia, and the appointment of Mr. Chalmers to be Chief Magistrate of the Settlement, in place of Mr. Parker, transferred to St. Helena.

Population.

It is impossible to obtain any accurate information on this head. It is generally supposed that the tribes acknowledging British rule and influence fall little short of 400,000, of which the seaboard population would amount to at least 100,000, divided among fourteen or fifteen large towns and villages.

Ecclesiastical.

The remarks in the Blue Book of 1868 apply to the Report for the present year. It is to be regretted that the Church of England should be so indifferently represented in the Settlement; and I should be glad to see the establishment of a Church Mission here.

GOLD COAST.

Education.

An increased grant is under consideration for the present year, but it would be useless to attempt any improvements without a well-organized scheme, and the assistance of trained teachers to carry it out.

Mrs. Mosely, a philanthropic English lady, the widow of a former Chief Justice of the Settlement, is expected out daily, to inaugurate a "Female Industrial School" at Cape Coast, which will probably be subsidized by the local Government.

Imports and Exports.

Although from the extensive seaboard and great number of out-stations, and from the untrustworthiness of the native Customs officials, these returns are probably largely understated, they show a very marked increase over the previous year. And I am glad to observe that every quarterly return from the Collector shows an increase under these heads.

A colonial steamer is alone needed to bring out the resources of the country; and the navigation of the fine river Volta by such a vessel would give an impetus to interior trade which can only be appreciated by those acquainted with the actual capabilities of the Fantee and Accra countries.

Gaols and Prisoners.

Great improvements have taken place in the interior arrangements of the prisons, although the punishments hitherto awarded, and the general system carried out, has been, in my opinion, too mild to act as a sufficient deterrent.

A considerable diminution is now being made in the amount of food given to them, and it is hoped that the introduction of strictly penal labour will have the effect of making imprisonment a thing to be feared, instead of its being considered, as hitherto, a simple retirement from public life on the part of the convict, to whom no disgrace attaches in the eyes of the natives, and whose return is usually warmly welcomed by his family and friends.

Health.

The health of the Settlement during the year 1869 has been very fair. It would be pre-eminently healthy among West African Colonies, but for the many barbarous and unhealthy customs of the natives, and their indifference to sanitary arrangements, as well as their unwillingness to consent to such improvements as tend to do away with their dilapidated tenements. These are invariably treated as sacred, or "family houses," and give the towns a ruinous appearance, besides being a prolific source of disease from the dirt and animal matter accumulated in and around them. I should much dread any outbreak of cholera in the towns of the Gold Coast.

General Remarks.

The state of affairs in the Settlement is very promisiug; a steadily increasing trade, and the existence of a less bitter feeling against the Dutch, have not failed to have an influence on the peace and the trade of the country.

The people are again returning quietly to British rule and guidance; and active hostilities against Elmina have ceased. The war is now a series of border skirmishes chiefly undertaken for plunder.

Our relations with Ashantee are rapidly improving, and fair prospects may be entertained of a peace with that power in due course of time.

The surplus balance at the disposal of the local Government amounted to 12,000*l.* at the close of the year 1869, and is expected to reach little short of 20,000*l.* at the close of 1870. These desirable results are attained in spite of a largely-increasing expenditure; and there can be no doubt that the presence of Her Majesty's troops may very soon be dispensed with, leaving to the local Government the organization of an armed police force, similar to that now at Lagos. As soon as this arrangement is carried out, this Settlement will be entirely self-supporting, no Parliamentary grant being voted for it this year. The opening of the river Volta for trade will soon enable the Gold Coast to compete in point of commercial importance with Lagos, and eventually with Sierra Leone; and Her Majesty's Government will have the satisfaction of perceiving that the large measure of assistance given to these people is beginning to produce its expected results.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B., Governor-in-Chief.

(Signed) H. T. USSHER, Administrator.

LAGOS.

No. 9.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., to The Earl of Kimberley.

(No. 91.)

My Lord, Government House, Sierra Leone, September 9, 1870.

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Settlement of Lagos for the year 1869, accompanied by an interesting and highly satisfactory Report from the Administrator.

The duplicate Blue Book will be transmitted by next mail.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,

Governor-in-Chief.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 88.)

Sir, Secretary's Office, Lagos, May 20, 1870.

In the absence of the Colonial Secretary and the Chief Clerk and Treasurer, I have the honour respectfully to transmit herewith to your Excellency the Blue Book for the year 1869.

2. Your Excellency will not fail to observe that the population of the Settlement, especially within the town of Lagos, has largely increased since the Report on the Blue Book for the year 1868. I subjoin a Statement of the number of persons who have crossed the Lagoon to and from the mainland during the last six months of the year 1869, by which it will appear that a large number of persons who have crossed the Lagoon from the mainland to Lagos have remained in the town or territory, viz. :—

Ferry.	Number of Persons crossing for 6 months in the Year.		Increase coming in.	Decrease going out.
	1868.	1869.		
From Lagos to mainland -	105,765	101,939	—	4,826
„ mainland to Lagos	136,571	157,765	21,194	—

3. The growing and prosperous state of the Settlement having attracted so many people from the interior, and the then contemplated withdrawal of the troops from the Settlement, has necessitated an increase of the police staff, as crime increases in the same proportion with the increased population; and I beg to subjoin a tabular statement showing the number of cases which came before the Courts during the year 1869, viz.:—

Year.	Police Court.			Court of Civil and Criminal Justice.			Grand Total.
	Felonies.	Misdemeanours.	Total.	Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Total.	
1867 - -	276	647	923	9	53	62	985
1868 - -	376	949	1,325	192	19	211	1,536
1869 - -	334	1,471	1,805	166	32	198	2,003

4. With regard to the revenue of the Settlement, your Excellency will observe a steady increase under the various heads of revenue collected in 1869, the principal items of which I will briefly subjoin herein, to show the increase under each head as compared with that collected in the year 1868, viz. :—

Customs Revenue.

	£	s.	d.
1869	33,200	5	9
1868	25,350	3	0½
Increase	£7,850	2	8½

Sale of Government Property.

	£	s.	d.
1869	197	17	7
1868	137	5	9
Increase	£60	11	10

Land Sales.

	£	s.	d.
1869	675	5	3
1868	381	10	0
Increase	£293	15	3

Land Revenue.

	£	s.	d.
1869	935	10	0
1868	381	0	0
Increase	£554	10	0

Licences.

	£	s.	d.
1869	1,776	4	0
1868	1,038	0	0
Increase	£738	4	0

Fees of Office.

	£	s.	d.
1869	130	0	0
1868	111	14	6
Increase	£18	5	6

Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Courts.

	£	s.	d.
1869	1,527	14	7
1868	1,388	11	5
Increase	£139	3	2

Government Vessels.

	£	s.	d.
1869	587	12	9
1868	382	13	11½
Increase	£204	18	9½

The whole increase of revenue for the year 1869 over that of 1868 amounting to 6,626*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Total revenue in 1869 - - -	40,622	11	6
Ditto in 1868 - - -	38,896	3	9
Increase - - - -	£6,726	7	9

5. In the Report of the Deputy Collector of Customs, which I herewith enclose, your Excellency will perceive that in the imports of European commodities into the Settlement during the year 1869, there has been an increase of 76,053*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* over those of 1868, viz:— A.

	£	s.	d.
Imports in 1869 - - - -	416,869	3	8
Ditto in 1868 - - - -	340,815	6	10
Increase - - - -	£76,053	16	10

6. The exports of African produce into the European markets show a very large increase of 152,191*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* in 1869, over those of the year 1868, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Value of exports in 1869 - - -	669,445	0	7
Ditto 1868 - - -	517,253	17	11
Increase - - -	£152,191	2	8

The principal articles of African produce thus exported are as follows, almost one-half of which (except palm oil) have been exported to Great Britain; the remaining half to France and Germany, viz.:—

Palm Kernels.

	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Exported in 1869 - -	20,394	0	0	24
Ditto 1868 - - -	15,498	5	0	0
Increase - -	4,895	15	0	24

Palm Oil.

	Gallons.
Exported in 1869 - - - -	1,770,991
Ditto 1868 - - - -	1,460,446
Increase - - - -	310,545

Raw Cotton.

	lbs.
Exported in 1869 - - - -	1,881,270
Ditto 1868 - - - -	1,029,168
Increase - - - -	852,102

Benni Seed (Sesame).

	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Exported in 1869 - - -	501	1	2	10
Ditto 1868 - - -	385	4	3	8
Increase - - -	115	16	3	2

7. The increased advancement in the commerce and population of the Settlement, as already shown in the foregoing statement, naturally caused an increased expenditure of the Government, especially as the Settlement has ceased to be a burden on the mother-country; and having to provide for the expenses of Government, sanitary improvements, and the pacification of the Settlement, it is not to be wondered at if the expenditure of the Government of the Settlement increases in the same proportion as the

LAGOS. B.

revenue. I enclose herewith a Statement of the Expenditure for the year 1869, as compared with that of 1868, under the different heads of service.

8. Trusting that these observations will meet with your Excellency's approval,

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. FORSYTHE,
Acting Chief Clerk and Treasurer.

His Excellency Capt. J. H. Glover, R.N.,
Administrator of Lagos.

(No. 132.)

SIR, Government House, Lagos, August 22, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book for the Settlement of Lagos for the year 1869.

2. My visit to the river Volta and the absence from the Settlement of the two principal secretarial officers, on account of sickness and other causes, has prevented the transmission of the Blue Book until this date.

3. I need only point out to your Excellency the steady advance to which the following statistical returns give evidence, and the confidence which may be placed in the further development of the resources of the country and the progress of its people in civilization and commercial enterprise.

4. The value of its exports as against the imports, demonstrates its importance if looked at only as a commercial speculation; and when it is considered that the influence of a civilized, and, I hope, both a civilizing and Christianizing, Government is felt and appreciated, even to the very heart of Central Africa, with whose large centres of trade we are now in constant intercourse, it must be a cause of gratification to the philanthropist, as well as to the political economist, that this great work is being carried on without causing one fraction of expense to the mother-country.

5. I enclose copies of Reports and Statistical Returns furnished by the different departments of the Government.

6. I trust that the foregoing Report may be satisactory to your Excellency, evidencing, as it does, the progress of the Settlement of Lagos.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. H. GLOVER,
Administrator and Commander R.N.

His Excellency Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
Governor-in-Chief,

A.

SIR, Custom House, Lagos, May 20, 1870.

I beg to make the following Report on the Revenue, Imports, and Exports of the Settlement for the year 1869.

It has no doubt been remarked by your Excellency, that both the imports and exports for the year 1869 exceed considerably those of the previous year; as I will proceed to demonstrate.

	Imports.				Exports.			
		£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
1868	-	340,815	6	10	-	517,253	17	11
1869	-	416,869	3	8	-	669,455	0	7

Your Excellency will observe that my opinion regarding the onward tendency of trade, as expressed in my Report for 1868, was not erroneous, as the imports of the year 1869 exceed that of 1868 by 152,202*l.*, and I have great satisfaction to be enabled to state that I entertain no apprehension whatever of diminution in either of these items during the present year. The following statement will evince the steady increase of the trade of Lagos:—

In 1863 the palm kernel trade, then newly introduced, furnished only in 1863 2,664¾ tons; in 1866, 7,196 tons; in 1867, 13,619 tons; in 1868, 15,498¼ tons; in 1869, 20,394 tons.

The export in benni seed for the year 1864, in which year the trade in the article commenced, was 2½ tons; in 1866, 11½ tons; in 1867, 298½ tons; in 1868, 385¼ tons; in 1869, 501 tons.

There is also an almost positive certainty in the continued increase in the cotton trade, taking into consideration the quantities already exported, and the amicable understanding still existing between this Government and that of Abbeokuta and adjacent places, where cotton is cultivated to a large extent.

In the year 1868 the export value of this staple was 51,375*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* That of the year 1869 reached 76,956*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* I must here state that in 1869 the price of this article of commerce had considerably fallen, as compared with that of 1868. This will at once show that a very much larger quantity was exported during the year 1869.

Palm oil. The increase in this staple also is worthy of notice. In the year 1868 the quantity exported was 1,460,446 gallons; in the year 1869, the quantity exported was 1,770,991 gallons, showing an increase of 310,545 gallons in favour of 1869.

Revenue. The continued and large increase in the articles of trade above enumerated, in conjunction with other articles in proportion, has necessarily favourably affected the revenue; and it is with great pleasure I have to submit the following statement:—

The revenue of 1868 collected in the Customs department was 25,351*l.* 2*s.* 1½*d.*; the revenue of 1869 collected in the Customs department was 33,220*l.* This shows an increase of almost one-third on the revenue of 1868; and, from the amount collected during the past six months of the present year in comparison with that collected during the same period of the past year, there exists every probability, and I have little fear in stating that the revenue for the year 1870 will show an equal increase.

In conclusion, I beg to state for the information of your Excellency that from an examination of the market returns furnished, there was in the Settlement a large quantity of produce unexported at the end of the year 1869; there is, therefore, every likelihood of the exports for 1870 evincing increase at least in an equal ratio with former years.

The inclination expressed by several of the leading foreign merchants to land their cargo at Lagos instead of at Kotono, as formerly, is also another reason to hope that the revenue will show favourably with that of the past year.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Capt. J. H. Glover, R.N.,
Administrator.

(Signed) W. J. MAXWELL,
Deputy Collector of Customs.

B.

EXPENDITURE OF THE SETTLEMENT.

Heads of Disbursements.	1868.	1869.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Establishments	16,991 6 5	20,662 1 1½
Pensions, &c.	1,749 3 4	1,405 0 0
Revenue Services (exclusive of Establishment)	—	—
Administration of Justice, &c.	45 3 6	82 3 11
Ecclesiastical (exclusive of Establishment)	25 0 0	—
Charitable Allowances	50 0 0	50 0 0
Education (exclusive of Establishment)	42 14 0	5 0 0
Hospitals (exclusive of Establishment)	231 3 7½	356 11 4½
Police and Gaols (exclusive of Establishment	1,057 4 0	1,194 0 6
Rent	377 0 1½	671 6 8½
Transport Services	620 6 0	763 3 2
Works and Buildings	4,618 0 9	3,102 14 2
Roads, Streets, and Bridges	2,244 13 0	4,024 7 4½
Conveyance of Mails	55 18 0	63 17 10
Miscellaneous Services	3,401 4 2½	2,900 8 5
Interest	399 11 10	375 0 0
Remittances to Crown Agents	—	1,864 11 8
Repayment of Loans	765 10 4	500 0 0
Aborigines	1,002 7 9	629 15 5
Drawbacks and Refund of Duties	35 7 7½	16 13 3
Suppressing Slavery	—	7 10 0
Liabilities	—	756 15 7
	£33,711 13 6	£39,431 0 6

LAGOS.

Lagos, West Coast of Africa,
August 25, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward for your Exeellency's information the Abstract of the Annual Returns of the Colonial Hospital for the year 1869, which I have caused to be compiled from the records kept during the past year.

The total number of patients admitted in 1869 shows a decrease of 1 on the year 1868.

There is an increase in the number of Europeans admitted during same period of 40; 1868, 30; 1869, 40.

The decrease in the native admissions may partly be accounted for by the large number of 72, admitted from Guinea Worm in 1868, as compared with 15 in 1869. The large number was accounted by the country people to be the result of an expedition into the bush; in other words, the consequence of much walking in swampy country by a large number of the Lagos people, out on special duty. If we deduct this large excess and estimate, the admissions from Guinea Worm at the same as last year, we have then an increase in the total native admissions from all causes of 16.

Of the 70 Europeans admitted, 8 deaths are recorded :—

Dysentery	3
Diarrhœa	1
Paralysis	1
Delirium tremens	1
Bronchitis	1
Heart disease	1
	8

Of the White admissions the cases of fever under treatment in 1868, 27 in number, all recovered. This one fact I consider is sufficient testimony to the usefulness of the establishment.

In 1868 the 1 case of dysentery proved fatal.

In 1869 the 3 cases terminated in the same way.

Of the natives, 27 cases of fever, 1 died; 2 cases of tetanus also proved fatal; and when we compare the total admissions, 208, and note that 192 of these were discharged, the greatest part of them cured, the remainder much improved; and remember the condition of several of the patients when admitted, amongst whom the 18 cases resulted in death, I believe your Exellency will admit that we have here at work an agency which must produce a favourable result on the native population.

I trust it may not be deemed out of place if I refer to the improvements in the sanitary condition of the town, which have been made during the same period. Wide streets are cut in all directions, and principally in the one calculated to allow the wind from the Lagoon to cross the Island.

The large swamps on the eastern side of the Island are being rapidly filled up, and the mangrove growing there has been for many acres cut down.

The foul-smelling shallow creeks are being dredged into deep canals, and the banks of these protected by piles driven in to the number of many thousands, are the sites of a constantly active and busy population, and present a very different scene from when the receding tide left a shiny bank covered with a reeking ooze offered to the rays of a tropical sun, and strewed above and below high-water mark with accumulated animal and vegetable filth of all descriptions.

The practice of interment in the native houses is entirely done away with, and cemeteries exist. Scavengers are employed daily in cleaning the streets and wharves.

Markets for sale of firewood are established, removing another nuisance from the water's edge; and although Lagos still possesses the unenviable distinction of a sanitary position almost as bad as could be, the effects of the activity shown here are penetrating into the country around, and enormously increased cultivation, cleaner dwellings, clothes, a loss of belief in and gradual decay of Fetish customs, &c., &c., all show that Lagos is not merely a centre of trade, but a centre from which civilization has radiated for many miles round.

I have omitted to refer to the threatened outbreak of cholera here, which it was feared would spread from the ports to the north. Sanitary precautions of the most energetic character were made; large quantities of disinfectants, lime, and carbolic acid were stored. Arrangements were entered into and most willingly agreed to by the chiefs

and people for a general exodus of the population into the farms and country towns under their local heads; and the aid of the Mahommedan priesthood was called, and hastily given, to preach a general crusade against dirt and intemperance. An inspection of vessels was authorized outside the bar, and temporary quarantine for vessels arriving was established.

Your Excellency is of coure as well aware as myself of these latter measures, as they have been executed under your own personal orders; but I have deemed it my duty to refer to them, as well as to the internal hospital work, as forming part of the sanitary labours of the year 1869.

Trusting this may meet your Excellency's approval,

I have, &c.,

(Signed) SAMUEL ROWE,

Staff Surgeon, Act. Col. Surgeon.

His Excellency the Administrator.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 10.

(*No Report for* 1869 *received*).

NATAL.

No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor KEATE to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 59.)

MY LORD, Government House, Natal, August 8, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book for Natal for the year 1869.

2. In the Legislative Session of 1868 the following laws were passed for the purpose of augmenting the public revenue.

A law to amend the law as to the Distillation of Spirituous Liquors.

A law to suspend for two years the operation of Ordinance No. 3, 1850, section 3 and portion of section 53 of Ordinance No. 32, 1846, and during such suspension to levy certain stamp duties and fees in lieu of the duties, licence, and fees imposed thereby.

A law to authorize the levying and collection of dues at the port of Natal in respect of the lighthouse on the Bluff Rocks.

A law to impose a temporary increase in the postage of inland letters.

A law to enable the Lieutenant-Governor to impose fees on the Registration of Native Marriages and on certain other customs and usages of the natives, and to make provision for remunerating the chiefs of such natives.

3. By the first of these enactments the rate of duty levied on spirits was reduced, but provision was made for a more thorough supervision of distilleries. The result was to add in 1869, 3,176*l.* to the Excise revenue. By the second, the Stamp Duties Law, an addition of 3,850*l.* was obtained. Under the third law, which had already come into force in the latter part of 1868, a sum of 133*l.* was received. The fourth of these laws contributed to increase the Postage revenue to 974*l.* By the last of them, which the Government was only enabled to put into operation just before the expiration of the year, 209*l.* were added to the general revenue.

4. There was at the same time an improvement in the yield from the ordinary unaltered sources of income. The Customs exhibited, as compared with 1868, an increase of 7,516*l.*; the Native Hut Tax produced 730*l.* beyond the previous year's receipts; and the estimates were exceeded to a more or less important extent in several of the minor branches of the revenue. The total actual receipts of the year reached the sum of 111,231*l.*, showing an increase over those of the previous year of 15,469*l.*, and over the anticipated revenue of 6,874*l.*

5. The following laws were also passed in the same Session of the Legislature, having for their object the diminution of the public expenditure.

NATAL.

A law to amend Law No. 33 of 1865, which is a law regulating the expenses of witnesses attending to give evidence on criminal trials and preparatory examinations.

A law to repeal Law No. 8, 1866, which made provision for the destruction of certain noxious animals within the Colony of Natal.

A law to amend Law No. 9, 1866, for making better provision for the holding of the Circuit Courts for the district of Durban.

6. By the operation of these laws, combined with very careful economy of administration, the expenditure of 1869, as compared with that of 1868, exhibited a decrease of 24,049*l.*, and as compared with the outlay originally estimated, of 8,400*l.* The year closed with a surplus of revenue over expenditure of about 3,000*l.* This is the first year since 1864 which has not ended with a heavy deficit. The balance would have been larger but for the payment of arrears of former years, and the redemption of a small portion of the floating debt which has accumulated through these successive deficits. It is to be regretted that in this process of equalizing revenue and expenditure, by simultaneously strengthening the former and reducing the latter, it was found absolutely indispensable to arrest for a time the completion of public works in progress, and to postpone contemplated improvements in the communications between different parts of the Colony.

7. The public debt of the Colony bearing interest was augmented on the 1st January, 1869, by the contraction of a loan of 5,000*l.* for the purpose of repairing the damages caused to the public roads and bridges of the Colony by the flood of 1868. This debt bears interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and is redeemable in three years. It is secured upon tolls authorized to be levied under a special law passed in 1868 on certain roads and bridges. These tolls produced in 1869, 2,017*l.*

8. The expenditure incurred by Great Britain for the military protection of the Colony amounted to 34,916*l.*, the quota provided by the Colony in aid thereof to 4,272*l.* The maintenance of its volunteer forces cost the Colony the sum of 1,061*l.* The population returns give the number of the whites at 17,821, of the Indian coolies at 5,297, and of the natives at 246,244, making a total of 269,362 souls. This population is spread over an area of about 16,145 geographical miles. The disproportion between the European and coloured races and the numerical weakness of the former element account for the comparatively large outlay for military protection, and for the inadequate contribution at present made towards it out of the Colonial Treasury.

9. During the year under review 77 conditional land grants were issued to immigrants from Great Britain under the Land Grants scheme set on foot in 1867, 12 grants were also made under a new regulation to settlers coming from other parts of Her Majesty's dominions, making together 89 grants. This number is smaller than in the preceding year, when 99 in all were issued, owing no doubt to some extent to the partial withdrawal, subsequently rendered complete, of the annual vote for immigration purposes, a portion of which was previously applied to provide assisted passages. The entire number of land grants issued from June, 1867, when the scheme came first into operation, up to the end of 1869, was 271, the total outlay connected with it has been, during the same period, irrespective of assistance given locally to settlers to establish themselves on their grants, 6,310*l.* This would be at the rate of about 23*l.* per head, if each grant involved the introduction of one immigrant only, which is very far from being the case. It is estimated that the amount of money introduced into the Colony with these settlers has been not less than 100,000*l.*

10. To these signs of renewed progress may be added what is mentioned in the report of the Acting Superintendent of Schools, forming part of the Blue Book, that the number of schools throughout the Colony and of the scholars attending them has increased during the last two years, the average attendance having risen by more than 200 in each year, while, with the amount of aid furnished from the public purse almost stationary, private efforts for the support of schools are now represented by an aggregate sum of upwards of 5,000*l.*, not very far from the double of what was contributed in 1867.

11. A character of reality is given by its steadiness to the advancement indicated in the returns of imports and exports, and of agricultural produce. The value of imports for the year under review is given at 380,331*l.*, against 317,432*l.* in 1868, which exceeded that of 1867 by 47,852*l.* In the same way the value of the exports stands at 363,262*l.*, against 271,949*l.* for 1868, which itself was in excess of that of 1867 by 46,278*l.*

12. The number of acres under various crops reaped in 1869 was but slightly greater than in 1868, but the number in crop on the 31st December last was 45,784, against 41,135 at the same date in the preceding year, the acres of cultivated land not then in crop being 9,974, against 7,284. The increase is chiefly in the cultivation of the sugar-cane, coffee, cotton, and Indian corn or mealies.

13. This is entirely irrespective of the crops raised by the natives on the lands in

which they are located according to their tribes. The returns for two years show approximately that 103,499 acres were reaped by this class of the population in 1868, and that this number was increased in 1869 to 121,499 acres, the chief products being mealies and Kafir corn. The return for 1869 gives the total number of acres on the lands held by the natives in crop on the 31st December last at 127,124.

14. This increase of cultivation by the natives has been accompanied by very considerable improvement in the methods of husbandry adopted by them. The natives have, as a rule, been located in the more rugged portions of the Colony. There are, therefore, many blocks of land tilled by them on which the employment of any but the most simple instruments, such as the Kafir pick and the hoe, would be impossible; but where the nature of the country is more favourable, and its surface more even, ploughs, harrows, and other such-like agricultural implements are being introduced in great quantities. Next year I hope to have full returns of the actual numbers now in the possession of natives. For the present I am able to state approximately, from information furnished to me by the resident magistrates, that the ploughs and harrows together in use by them amount to about one thousand. All the magistrates report generally that plough-husbandry is coming extensively into favour among the natives in the open country; the magistrate for Newcastle, which is probably the least advanced, with the exception of Alfredia, of all the districts into which the country is divided, says, "I am aware that "the possession of ploughs will soon be general, as the natives on all sides are anxious to "have them. The high price of draught oxen has hitherto in a great measure hindered "the more general use of the plough in preference to the old Kafir pick. The value of "oxen having considerably come down in the market of late, and it is still gradually "falling, I expect the result will be the far more extended use of the plough among the "natives as well as the white population." This is a most important circumstance in its bearing upon the progressive civilization of the native race. It is the exponent of a complete revolution which is slowly but surely going on in their social habits. The labour expended on the tillage of the soil for the support of the family is passing over from the women and children, who can use the pick, to the men, who alone can hold the plough. The ultimate extinction of polygamy will be more effectually promoted by this change than by any of the measures which have been attempted or recommended for that purpose by philanthropists or legislators.

15. Agricultural returns may, I think, be relied upon sufficiently to establish the fact that, notwithstanding losses by horse and cattle sickness, the quantity of live stock possessed by both colonists and natives has augmented concurrently with the increase of crops and of the area of tilled land. There was a diminution in the number of swine belonging to natives. This is an indication of the high price of mealies which prevailed during the year. It was more profitable to the natives to sell their produce than to use it for the feeding of these swine. There was also a decline in the number of their goats, no doubt from the same cause. These, like the swine, were sold or used for food in place of the mealies put upon the market.

16. In almost every other kind of live stock there was an appreciable advance. According to the returns the colonists possessed in 1869, 619, and the natives 1,684 more horses than in 1868. Of horned cattle the numbers were, for colonists, 9,267, for natives, 9,667 more than in 1868. Of wool-bearing sheep belonging to colonists the numbers for 1869 were in excess of those for the preceding year by 42,403. Of non wool-bearing sheep belonging to natives, that is, sheep grown for their meat, not their fleeces, the increase was 9,885. Of Angora goats colonists possessed 4,215, and of ordinary goats 3,431 more than in 1868.

17. This extension of agricultural industry, conducted in parallel lines as it were by the two classes of the community, has an important bearing on the question of the supply of manual labour for wages to the colonists. There are those among the latter who would, if possible, check its extension in one line in order to foster it in the other, and so convert what is to some extent competing, into subsidiary industry. If this policy were practicable it would be very shortsighted. The colonists gain in the long run infinitely more by the natural growth of labour habits among the natives than they could obtain from any artificial equivalent for such habits that might be devised and put into execution. The best proof of this is that concurrently with the development of industry within the bounds of the native locations the supply of native labour for wages outside of them is on the increase. This increase, supplemented as it is by voluntary immigration from neighbouring native states, will, I have little doubt, keep fair pace with the demand.

18. The labour question in Natal is really one of tact, management, and fair dealing. For tropical production in the coast-district the local available supply of labour, whatever drawbacks may accompany it, is certainly very much larger in proportion than in any

NATAL.

of the sugar growing colonies of the empire except Barbados. Occasional difficulty of obtaining labour is experienced in the up country when it is wanted in small numbers. The natives prefer to work in company, and so seek for employment on the coast, where, from the nature of the cultivation, labour is organized in gangs. Frequently too, failure arises from the unsuitableness and one-sidedness of the conditions offered.

19. The history of the year thus cursorily reviewed may be stated to be one of quiet progress making its way in spite of many obstacles. To the removal of these obstacles the efforts of the Government have been unceasingly devoted, as being absolutely indispensable to the initiation of any measure which might accelerate that progress by the application of fresh impulses.

I have, &c.,

The Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) ROBT. W. KEATE,
Lieutenant-Governor.

ST. HELENA.

ST. HELENA.

No. 12.

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor PATEY to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 30.)

St. Helena, March 23, 1870.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the St. Helena Blue Book for the year 1869, the duplicate copy of which will be forwarded by the next mail.

As I did not administer the Government for any portion of that year, I requested the Colonial Secretary (who has filled various important offices in this Government since 1838, and in whom from my short experience I have great confidence), to draw up the Report on the Blue Book, which I trust will meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.,

Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) CHAS. G. E PATEY,
Rear-Admiral, Governor.

St. Helena, March 22, 1870.

SIR,

WITH the Blue Book for 1869 I have the honour, in obedience to your Excellency's direction, to submit the following brief Report on the returns of the past year.

Revenue.

The revenue of the year 1869, 20,779*l.*, contrasts favourably with that of the preceding year, and would show a comparative increase of 2,074*l.*

	£
Revenue 1868 - - -	18,705
,, 1869 . - -	20,779
Increase in 1869 - -	2,074

In both of these years, however, the receipts fall considerably below the *Estimates* for 1868 and 1869, which were based upon the steady receipts for several years preceding. The deficiency is caused by a sudden falling off in 1868 and 1869 of the receipts from Customs, the returns from which, notwithstanding the improvement in 1869 as compared with 1868, is still 2,074*l.* below the estimates.

	£
Customs 1869, estimated - - -	17,150
Receipts - - - -	15,076
Deficiency - -	2,074

This failure is the more unfortunate because it happens under an increased rate of tariff, which was provided in 1864, in order to meet the special charge for the reconstruction of the public buildings, part of the outlay for which had been raised by loan.

The amount of imports in the last three years were:—

	£
1867	114,159
1868	117,110
1869	122,759

The returns of merchant vessels which have called at this port for supplies during the same period show:—

	Vessels.	Tons.
1867	766	486,559
1868	749	453,827
1869	746	473,116

It is observable that in these returns of imports and shipping there is nothing to indicate the reason of the failure of the revenue; but on the other hand there has been a general complaint of the stagnation of trade in the neighbouring Colonies and eastern ports, which has made itself felt at a port of call like this. The removal also of the African squadron and the reduction of the strength of the garrison has seriously diminished the circulation of money in this Island. It is also to be borne in mind that the customs tariff is levied not by an ad valorem charge, but by a rate of wharfage upon packages, according to size, without reference to value; and it may be that these imported packages are, as a rule, now carefully sized, so as to take every possible advantage of the scale laid down in the tariff.

The Postage, 1,900*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*, is 400*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* in excess of the estimate; the receipts for the last three years being—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1867	1,598	10	7
1868	1,748	11	10
1869	1,900	19	10

Since 1868 arrangements have been made with the offices both in London and at the Cape of Good Hope for the issue of money orders through the Post Office, by which much convenience has been afforded to the inhabitants. The orders issued by the the St. Helena office in 1869 amounted to 2,891*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year 1869, 27,505*l.*, is 5,592*l.* in excess of the estimate. From this, however, must be deducted the repayment of a loan of 2,500*l.*, and also certain payments made in 1869, but remaining due from the preceding year, to the amount of 1,577*l.*, leaving a net excess over the estimate of 1,615*l.*, caused chiefly by the outlay under the heads of Works, Buildings, and Roads.

Public Debt.

The public debt at the close of 1868 was 7,500*l.* A further loan of 5,000*l.* was contracted in 1869, out of which the sum of 3,000*l.* was applied in diminution of the previous debt, leaving a total of 9,500*l.* due at the close of 1869.

Under the heads of Agriculture and Fisheries it is to be regretted that so little can be said.

The arable land is of course very limited in extent, but generally speaking it is rich and fertile. Little care is taken, however, to raise more than a scanty supply of vegetables and forage for the inhabitants and passing shipping. Owing mainly to the stimulus given by the late Governor, Sir Charles Elliot, some attempt has been recently made to revive the orchards with which the Island once abounded. A large number of chinchona trees of the best description have been introduced, and appear to thrive well at an elevation of over 2,000 feet. Renewed attention has also been given to the planting of coffee, experience having shown, for years past, that to the small extent to which it has been grown in the Island, the produce is abundant and of the finest quality.

But owing to the entire want of capital, and (it must also be added) to the almost entire want of enterprise and industry in the people, the efforts made for these objects

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are few and languid. The ground being naturally rich, little care is taken to renew its strength by the use of manure, so that cartloads of valuable stable soil are daily thrown into the sea at James Town, rather than incur the expense of its carriage for some short distance to the cultivated lands; and the deposits of guano on our coast which may be had for the gathering, have been used only to freight an occasional vessel bound to a shore where the climate is less genial and the inhabitants more energetic.

From the same causes the fisheries, which ought to be a source of comparative wealth, afford barely an uncertain supply for the inhabitants, and a mere subsistence to about a hundred very poor fishermen. The fish, at proper seasons, swarm in shoals sufficient to load large fishing vessels using nets, but the fishermen use the hook and line exclusively, and are content to take no more than would meet the demand at the market for daily consumption. No care is taken, by pickling or salting, to make the superabundant supply of one day provide for the scarcity of another. Neither is any effort made to take advantage of the whale fishery, although these fish frequent our shores, and American whalers constantly make valuable additions to their cargoes by the capture of them close to the Island.

Minerals.

It has recently been ascertained that beds of manganese exist in several parts of the Island, and that the ore yields from 65 to 70 per cent. of the peroxide of manganese, estimated to be worth in the English market over 4*l.* a ton.

About 13 tons of this ore were procured, shipped to Newcastle, and sold there at 2*l.* per ton. As this did not cover the expenses, the parties engaged in the shipment did not care to repeat the experiment. The expenses, however, of this first small shipment were necessarily exceptionally high, considerably exceeding the rate per ton which would attend an extensive and systematic working of the ore. It may further be reasonably expected that upon larger shipments, and under better arrangements, the amount to be realized in the English market per ton would be nearer to that quoted in the Price Lists. Even if the returns were only sufficient to cover the expenses, it would clearly be an advantage to be able to meet some portion of the cost of imports by an article of export, and at the same time provide employment for the labouring class.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency Admiral Patey,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HUD^{N}. R. JANISCH,
Colonial Secretary.

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

New South Wales.

No. 13.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 13.

Extract from a DESPATCH from Governor The Right Hon. Earl of Belmore to The Earl of Kimberley, dated Government House, Sydney, September 23, 1870.

(No. 146.)

I have the honour to forward herewith six copies of the Blue Book for the year 1869.

The Registrar General's Report to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

Sir, Registrar General's Office, Sydney, September 12, 1870.

I do myself the honour to forward herewith the Statistical Register for 1869, accompanied with the following Report, calling attention to the various returns as published in detail in the Register.

PART I.

Population, Immigration, Vital Statistics, &c.

Population.

On the 31st December, 1868, the estimated population of the Colony was 466,765. To this number there has been added during the year 1869, by excess of births over deaths, 12,552, and by the number arriving over those departing from the Colony, 6,039; showing the estimated population, on the 31st December, 1869, as 485,356, being an addition to that of 1868 of 18,591, or 3·98 per cent.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

It will be seen that during the year 1869 there were 19,243 births recorded, 3,799 marriages were entered as having been celebrated, and 6,691 deaths were registered.

Immigration.

The Government Immigration Regulations having been cancelled in 1867, no immigrants arrived at the public expense, with the exception of 47 individuals who had previously failed to avail themselves of their embarkation orders. A decennial return will be found showing the amount paid out of the Revenue of the Colony on account of immigration; and a table will also be found showing the number of immigrants who arrived at the public as well as at their own expense, together with their religious persuasion and nativity.

Lunatic and Invalid Institutions.

There were admitted into the Hospital for the Insane at Gladesville, during the year 1869, 218 patients, which with those in the Asylum on 31st December, 1868, made the total number under care in 1869 at 882. Of these there were 571 males and 311 females. During the year there were removed from the institution, by recovery, relieved, removed not improved, died, and escaped, 142 males and 88 females, making a total of 230; leaving in the Hospital, on 31st December last, the large number of 652 patients. The average number under treatment during 1869 was 650; the percentage of recoveries was 40·36, of relieved 11·92, and the percentage of deaths on the average number resident was 9·25.

In the Free Lunatic Asylum, Parramatta, there were, on 31st December, 1868, 482 lunatics, viz., 293 males and 189 females; the number admitted during 1869, 50 males and 23 females; and removed from the institution, by recovery, improved, absconded, and deaths, 47 males and 18 females; leaving in the establishment, on 31st December last, 296 males and 194 females,—a total of 490. There were in the same institution on the last day of the past year 20 invalids, being 3 less than in the institution in the December preceding.

Of convict lunatics in the Asylum, Parramatta, there were, on 31st December last, 58 patients, namely, 52 males and 6 females; in December, 1868, there were 54 male and 6 female lunatics; the reduction being by the death of 2 male patients during 1869; the number of invalids remained at 3 during the year. Tables 7, 8, and 9, give more definite information. The total expense of the Government Institutions is shown in Table 11 at 40,940*l.* 17*s.*

Charitable Institutions.

It will be seen by Table 11 that there are throughout the Colony 37 Hospitals, 8 Benevolent Asylums, 11 Orphan Schools, 5 Lunatic Establishments—namely, 4 Government Institutions, including the Lunatic Receiving-house, Darlinghurst, and 1 private Lunatic Asylum, Cook's River—and 5 Miscellaneous Charitable Institutions. The Hospital at Port Macquarie has been omitted as being closed previous to the commencement of the year, and those at Kiandra and Adelong are marked as closed during the year. The principal Hospitals, judging from the numbers admitted and discharged, are the Sydney Infirmary and Dispensary, the Maitland Hospital, St. Vincent's Hospital, and that at Bathurst. The numbers received into these institutions during 1869 were, 1,628, 220, 178, and 147, respectively. There were discharged during the same year, 1,464, 222, 178, and 122; the deaths being 189, 7, 10, and 21, respectively. There were remaining on 31st December last, in Sydney Infirmary, 159; in Maitland Hospital, 9; in St. Vincent's 11; and in Bathurst, 23. The receipts from Government during 1869 of these institutions were—Sydney Infirmary, 16,224*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*; Maitland Hospital, 600*l.*; St. Vincent's Hospital, nil; Bathurst, 635*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* The voluntary contributions were—Sydney Infirmary, 4,080*l.* 11*s.*; Maitland, 603*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*; St. Vincent's, 509*l.* 19*s.*; Bathurst, 365*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.* The total receipts of the 37 various Hospitals were—from Government, 25,359*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*, from voluntary contributions, 12,332*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*, making a total of 37,691*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*; the gross disbursements being 31,027*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* In the several Benevolent Asylums, there were admitted during the year, 2,077; discharged, 1,858; died, 268; which, with those in the establishments on 31st December, 1868, give 1,137 as remaining on 31st December, 1869, being less by 49 at the latter date. The total receipts during the year were 19,499*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, of which 18,019*l.* 14*s.* was from Government; of this sum, however, 12,440*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.* was for the expenses of the Government Institutions at Hyde Park, Parramatta, Liverpool, and Port Macquarie. The total expenditure was 19,064*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* At Scone the only relief given was that of out-door patient, there being no building.

The orphan schools show an increase of 144 on the establishments on 31st December last, than at the previous December. The disbursements for these Schools during 1869 were 31,122*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*; the voluntary contributions were, for the Asylum for Destitute Children, 3,827*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*; Sydney Female School of Industry, 860*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*; Deaf and Dumb and Blind Institution, 728*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*; and the 3 Ragged Schools, 575*l.* 10*s.* The expenditure during 1868 was 26,780*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* The Reformatory School for Girls, at Newcastle, was opened during 1869. There appear to have been but 3 admitted, the cost shown being 197*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*

The voluntary contributions to the Charitable Institutions under the head of Miscellaneous, viz.—Home Institution, Sydney Female Refuge, House of the Good Shepherd, Sydney Sailors' Home, and Sydney Night Refuge and Soup Kitchen—show a considerable falling off. During 1868 there was collected for these institutions the sum of 5,370*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*, whilst the 1869 return only gives 3,970*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*, being 1,400*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.* decrease. This decrease was principally in the receipts of the House of the Good Shepherd, by 726*l.* 9*s.*, and the Sailors' Home, by 593*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*

The grand total disbursements for Charitable Institutions, including the Lunatic Asylums, were, for 1869, 126,530*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*, and for 1868, 125,107*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*

Rates of Wages.

The rate of wages, as shown from the returns collected, appear to be somewhat less in 1869 than in the previous year, in cases where board and lodging was not provided; but in the country districts, where homes and provisions are supplied, the rate is shown as advanced.

Provisions and Clothing.

The prices shown for articles of consumption is in most cases less in 1869 than was given for 1868, as is also the case in the articles of clothing and bedding, there being but few cases where the prices are given at the higher rate in 1869.

PART II.

Religion, Education, and Crime.

The number of ministers on the Register for the celebration of marriages, in 1869, was—

1.	Church of England	154
2.	Roman Catholic Church	115
3.	Presbyterian	68
4.	„ Synod of Eastern Australia	7
5.	„ other than those above stated	6
6.	Wesleyan Methodist	68
7.	Congregational Independents	24
8.	Primitive Methodist	11
9.	Baptist	9
10.	Jews' Synagogue	5
11.	Free Church of England	2
12.	Unitarian	2
13.	United Methodist Free Church	1
14.	United Free Gospel Church	1
15.	German Lutheran	1
16.	Christians	1
17.	Christian Israelites	1
	Total	476

The churches and chapels, with the average attendance, and the average attendance in public buildings or dwellings used for public worship throughout the Colony, were—

Denomination.	Number of Churches and Chapels.	Accommodation.	Average Attendance.	Public Buildings or Dwellings—Average Attendance.
1. Church of England	263	47,682	35,084	10,238
2. Roman Catholic Church	158	43,137	41,756	5,929
3. Presbyterian	96	18,730	10,594	4,721
4. „ Synod of Eastern Australia	5	620	450	730
5. „ other than those above stated	3	280	130	191
6. Wesleyan Methodist	200	36,000*	34,000*	—
7. Congregational Independents	21	7,030	4,815	242
8. Primitive Methodist	39	5,260	3,285	260
9. Baptist	18	3,264	1,710	479
10. Jews' Synagogue	2	720	410	—
11. Free Church of England	1	600	90	90
12. Unitarian	1	300	450	—
13. United Methodist Free Church	4	580	290	210
14. United Free Gospel Church	2	200	100	—
15. German Lutheran	2	150	80	—
16. Christians	1	400	250	—
17. Christian Israelites	2	160	75	—
Totals	818	165,113	156,659	

* Includes all places of worship.

The expenses of the Government for salaries and allowances were—

	Salaries and Allowances.	From Church and Schools Estates Fund.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Church of England	12,370 3 8	2,513 16 10	14,884 0 6
Roman Catholic	6,796 7 5	1,138 13 1	7,935 0 6
Presbyterian	2,487 6 11	363 6 8	2,850 13 7
Wesleyan Methodist	1,572 10 4	200 5 7	1,772 15 11
Totals	23,226 8 4	4,216 2 2	27,442 10 6

showing a less amount on the grand total of 1869 by 1,785*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* than in 1868. The number of churches and chapels have increased by 68.

Sunday Schools.

The return of Sunday Schools for 1869 shows an increase of 65 upon 1868, with an increase of the number of teachers of 441, and of the average attendance of pupils of 4,287; the average attendance of scholars in 1868 being—males 21,248, females 22,546, total 43,794; while in 1869 the average attendance was—males 23,185, females 24,896, total 48,081; bearing a very favourable comparison with previous years.

Private Schools

These schools show a small decrease in both the number of schools and teachers, with a very small increase of scholars of 242 upon the previous year. The numbers given in 1868 were—schools 496, teachers 763, scholars 11,486; those of 1869 were—schools 486, teachers 472, scholars 11,728.

Orphan and Industrial Schools.

The Protestant Orphan School had an attendance of 246 scholars, under three teachers, at a cost to the Government of 2,781*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* The Roman Catholic Orphan School had 332 scholars, under three teachers, at a cost of 3,470*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* The total paid by Government for these two institutions in 1869 was 6,252*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*; in 1868 the expense of the same establishments was 6,438*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.* The Asylum for Destitute Children was maintained during 1869 at an expense of 11,717*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*, being 7,890*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* from Government, and 3,827*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* from private contributions; the number of scholars being 750, with eight teachers. In 1868 the cost was 12,772*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*, being 8,3051*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* from Government, and 4,466*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* from voluntary contributions.

The Nautical School Ship 'Vernon' had 135 scholars in 1869, costing 4,291*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*

The Industrial School for Girls, at Newcastle, with 105 scholars, cost 6,563*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*, and the Reformatory School at Newcastle, with three girl scholars, cost 197*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*, making a total charge upon Government of 11,057*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*, an advance for Industrial Schools upon 1868 of 4,829*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*

The schools under the Council of Education numbered 807, with 57,938 scholars and 1,093 teachers, and cost 141,045*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*, of which 39,618*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* was derived from voluntary contributions, fees, and other private sources, the balance of 101,426*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* being contributed by Government. Of these schools, 264, with 26,466 scholars and 428 teachers, were Denominational. The total cost of schools under Council of Education during 1868 was 121,998*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, the number of schools being 748, with 53,752 scholars and 1,014 teachers. A favourable advance is thus shown for 1869.

The Sydney Grammar School shows an advance in the number of scholars upon 1868 from 104 to 196, with an increase of fees received of 1,433*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*; a very marked advance in both number of pupils and amount of fees. The receipts of the University of Sydney, irrespective of the 5,000*l.* paid by Government, were 1,298*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* In 1868 the amount was 850*l.* 13*s.*; the number of students in 1868 being 36, and 41 in 1869.

The Deaf and Dumb and Blind Institution gives a favourable advance in 1869; the receipts from voluntary contributions, &c., being 728*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, against 538*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* in 1868. The total number of scholars in private schools in 1869 is given as 11,728, making the gross total attending school 71,523, being over double the number that attended school at the previous decennial period.

Crime.

The commitments for trial in the Supreme and Circuit Courts during 1869 were 277, being 23 less than 1868; those for trial at Quarter Sessions were 835, being 129 more than in 1868, showing the total at 1,112 commitments. Of these there were convictions in the Supreme and Circuit Courts 174 (six being capital convictions), and before the Courts of Quarter Sessions 508; the total convictions before both tribunals being 682, an increase of 81 on those of 1868, and giving a ratio of 1·434 per 1,000 on the estimated population at the middle of 1869.

Summary Jurisdiction.

The tables of Summary Jurisdiction show that there were 10,596 persons convicted and sentenced, of whom 8,173 were males, and 2,423 females. The commitments for

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trial were 1,030 males and 124 females. Of these convictions and commitments there were—

	Convicted.		Committed.		Total.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
For Offences against the Person - -	3,894	1,519	257	32	5,702
„ „ Property - -	862	176	773	92	1,903
Drunkenness - - - - -	3,417	728	—	—	4,145
	8,173	2,423	1,030	124	—
Totals - - - - -	10,596		1,154		11,750

The offences against the person exceeded those in 1868 by 683; those against property were less than those of 1868 by 473; and those for drunkenness were 4,332 in 1868, and in 1869, 4,145; showing but a very small improvement in this vice.

PART III.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

The excess of exports over imports during 1869 was 1,540,689*l.*; the grand total of imports being 8,392,753*l.*, and of exports 9,933,442*l.* Of these there were—

	Imports from.	Exports to.
	£	£
United Kingdom - -	3,544,285	3,267,019
British Colonies - - -	3,919,092	6,357,551
Foreign States - -	929,376	308,872
	8,392,753	9,933,442

The export value to Victoria is shown by the large amount of 2,825,393*l.*, of which 2,099,989*l.* was by overland traffic, and 725,404*l.* seaward; the export traffic with South Australia being 255,729*l.* overland and 31,139*l.* seaward. The excess of imports over exports in 1868 was shown as 858,473*l.* As, however, no returns of the export trade overland with Victoria and South Australia were kept during that year, cause is shown for the large excess of exports over imports for 1869 comparatively with 1868, the returns for 1869 showing such a large overland export traffic with Victoria and South Australia.

The total import and export trade, compared with 1868, give an advance of 341,376*l.*, on the former, and of 2,740,538*l.* on the latter.

The imports and exports from and to the adjacent Colonies were—

		Imports from.	Exports to.	Excess of Exports.	Excess of Imports.
		£	£	£	£
Victoria	Seaward - - -	494,855	725,404	1,749,379	—
	Overland - - -	581,159	2,099,989		
South Australia	Seaward - - -	412,593	31,139	—	236,576
	Overland - - -	110,851	255,729		
Tasmania—Seaward - - - -		87,069	21,523	—	65,546
New Zealand „ - - - - -		300,016	320,004	19,988	—
Queensland „ - - - - -		1,473,008	778,389	—	694,619

The principal items of export to Victoria were—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Live stock - -	816,435	10	0	Grain - - -	11,324	7	6
Skins - - -	6,179	18	0	Timber - -	10,633	0	0
Wool - - -	1,203,775	0	6	Tallow - - -	9,199	0	0
Wine - - -	12,896	8	0	Gold - - -	4,724	0	0
Flour - - -	10,409	6	0				

The principal imports from Victoria overland were—

	£		£
Apparel and Slops	11,465	Opium	29,092
Drapery	88,461	Drugs	3,387
Leather, Boots, &c.	18,529	Oilmen's Stores	12,497
Saddlery	5,996	Paints	3,787
Flour, Bread, and Grain	24,340	Oil	4,331
Tea and Coffee	28,896	Kerosene	2,880
Sugar	41,913	Ironmongery	61,884
Soap	4,660	Machinery	6,503
Salt	2,010	Woolpacks	22,680
Tobacco, Cigars	17,509	Bags and Sacks	2,236
Spirits	35,772	Timber	8,894
Beer	7,648	Toys	4,417
Wine	17,610	Stationery	4,528
Hops and Malt	3,726	Live Stock	16,542

The overland trade with South Australia is shown by the imports to the value of 110,851*l.*, consisting principally of—

	£		£
Drapery	10,978	Spirits	13,623
Flour	13,860	Sugar	8,646
Hardware and Ironmongery	10,663	Tea	5,088
Leather, and Boots and Shoes	2,211	Tobacco	4,258
Sheep	5,250	Wine	1,963
Oilmen's Stores	3,365	Woolsacks and Bagging	2,530

the principal items of export being, live stock, 59,263*l.*, and wool, 195,835*l.*

Percentages of imports and exports.

The following table gives the percentages from and to the various places of import and export, as to the total imports and exports to and from the Colony, during 1869 :—

	Imports.	Exports.		Imports.	Exports.
United Kingdom	42·24	32·89	Foreign States—		
British Colonies—			France	0·75	—
Victoria	12·82	28·44	United States	1·85	0·53
South Australia	6·23	2·89	Holland	0·30	—
Tasmania	1·04	0·22	China	4·51	—
New Zealand	3·57	3·22	Shanghai	—	0·45
Queensland	17·55	7·83	Java	0·49	—
Point de Galle	1·74	20·28	Manila	0·80	—
Hong Kong	0·95	0·46	Bourbon	0·67	—
Mauritius	2·60	0·48	Batavia	0·56	—
Calcutta	0·14	0·12	Ilo Ilo	0·52	—
Various	0·04	0·06	Various	0·63	0·19
			South Sea Islands	—	1·03
			New Caledonia	—	0·47
			Petropaulovski	—	0·44

Imports and exports per head of population.

The amount per head of the imports was at the rate of 17*l.* 5*s.* 10½*d.*, that of the exports reached 20*l.* 9*s.* 4¼*d.* per head of the population.

The principal articles of import and export seaward, and their comparison with 1868, showing increase or decrease on such year, are given in the Tables A and B following.

TABLE A.—IMPORTS SEAWARD.

Articles.	1868.	1869.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Agricultural Implements	3,713	7,930	4,217	—
Alkali and Soda	14,640	12,427	—	2,213
Apparel and Slops	91,658	304,210	212,552	—
Apothecaries' Ware	25,599	17,670	—	7,929
Arms and Ammunition—				
Guns	1,624	4,086	2,462	—
Gunpowder	8,271	16,129	7,858	—
Bags and Sacks	21,380	32,632	11,252	—
Beer—				
In Wood	150,503	137,836	—	12,667
„ Bottle	93,847	127,152	33,305	—

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TABLE A.—*continued.*

Articles.	1868.	1869.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Blankets and Counterpanes	24,722	47,061	22,339	—
Brushware	6,464	12,658	6,194	—
Butter and Cheese	11,233	6,611	—	4,622
Candles	52,983	62,531	9,548	—
Carpeting and Rugs	9,814	15,575	5,761	—
Cement	7,613	12,795	5,182	—
Coffee	24,484	12,494	—	11,990
Confections and Preserves	33,815	38,546	4,731	—
Coin—				
Gold	9,905	5,000	—	4,905
Silver	6,100	5,372	—	728
Copper	10,000	511	—	9,489
Copper Ore	33,097	61,116	28,019	—
Corks and Bungs	6,168	3,548	—	2,620
Cordage and Rope	6,088	13,386	7,298	—
Cottons	21,309	55,455	34,146	—
Cutlery	7,499	15,491	7,992	—
Drugs and Medicines	39,591	55,354	15,763	—
Earthenware and China	19,244	40,948	21,704	—
Flax and Hemp	13,488	17,474	3,986	—
Fish—Salt and Dried	12,117	10,256	—	1,861
Flour and Bread	329,480	232,618	—	96,862
Fruit—				
Dried	56,370	38,729	—	17,641
Bottled	1,598	3,202	1,604	—
Green	21,654	23,372	1,718	—
Furniture	16,294	27,910	11,616	—
Gold Dust	1,740,983	838,828	—	902,155
Grain—				
Wheat	217,499	202,704	—	14,795
Barley	2,054	6,040	3,986	—
Oats	3,914	2,392	—	1,522
Rice	142,432	47,091	—	95,341
Haberdashery	44,967	75,402	30,435	—
Hardware	81,760	132,560	50,800	—
Hats, Caps, and Bonnets	47,636	94,237	46,601	—
Hosiery and Gloves	26,139	83,864	57,725	—
Hops	12,149	6,806	—	5,343
Instruments—Musical	10,959	17,482	6,523	—
India-rubber Goods	3,912	6,754	2,842	—
Iron and Steel	92,124	127,329	35,205	—
Jewellery	16,330	33,182	16,852	—
Lead—Rolls	8,083	10,206	2,123	—
Leather—				
Unmanufactured	16,980	15,986	—	994
Boots and Shoes	187,368	150,031	—	37,337
Linen and Drapery	708,447	739,095	30,648	—
Live Stock—				
Horses	5,109	15,131	10,022	—
Cattle	3,822	8,314	4,492	—
Matches	17,005	15,112	—	1,893
Machinery	29,798	68,589	38,791	—
Sewing Machines	3,091	6,259	3,168	—
Matting and Rugs	2,627	6,152	3,525	—
Metal—Galvanized	36,789	43,011	6,222	—
Military and Naval Stores	18,743	27,838	9,095	—
Millinery	29,263	51,655	22,392	—
Nails	16,109	26,109	10,000	—
Oil—all kinds	72,602	57,540	—	15,062
Oilmen's Stores	59,650	53,766	—	5,884
Onions	7,069	1,335	—	5,734
Opium	25,381	6,434	—	18,947
Paint	18,761	14,089	—	4,672
Painters' Materials	3,646	9,239	5,593	—
Perfumery	4,802	8,321	3,519	—
Pickles and Sauces	7,692	13,966	6,274	—
Pipes—Tobacco	5,126	9,087	3,961	—
Potatoes	60,015	52,509	—	7,506
Printing Materials	7,129	8,874	1,745	—
Preserved Meat	208	14,406	14,198	—
Saddlery and Harness	18,897	30,836	11,939	—
Silks	18,648	34,628	15,980	—
Skins—				
Horned Cattle	24,441	17,749	—	6,692
Sheep	32,588	33,619	1,031	—

TABLE A.—*continued.*

Articles.	1868.	1869.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Soap	3,046	5,574	2,528	—
Starch and Blue	10,138	11,714	1,576	—
Spirits—				
Brandy	167,396	131,236	—	36,160
Rum	59,128	53,935	—	5,193
Geneva	31,678	32,140	462	—
Gin	12,386	2,863	—	9,523
Whisky	13,775	11,588	—	2,187
All other	10,024	13,951	3,927	—
Stationery—				
Books	51,665	57,517	5,852	—
Paper	57,786	86,066	28,280	—
Maps	1,029	449	—	580
Sugar—				
Raw	536,539	496,113	—	40,426
Refined	963	6,258	5,295	—
Tallow	66,276	97,024	30,748	—
Tea	486,860	429,226	—	57,634
Timber—				
From Queensland	5,237	15,191	9,954	—
From United States	2,502	7,919	5,417	—
Tin and Tinware	12,523	11,039	—	1,484
Tobacco	110,404	103,297	—	7,107
Toys and Fancy Goods	30,027	50,641	20,614	—
Turnery and Woodware	6,556	9,078	2,522	—
Turpentine and Varnish	4,756	6,826	2,070	—
Twine and Thread	6,368	12,244	5,876	—
Umbrellas and Parasols	4,613	14,409	9,796	—
Vinegar	4,181	7,253	3,072	—
Watches and Clocks	7,724	12,855	5,131	—
Wine	77,469	65,242	—	12,227
Wire	14,795	20,931	6,136	—
Wool	784,340	738,872	—	45,468
Woollens	48,975	116,175	67,200	—
Woolpacks and Bagging	22,803	32,266	9,463	—
Yellow Metal	10,211	16,871	6,660	—

TABLE B.—EXPORTS SEAWARD.

Articles.	1868.	1869.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Apothecaries' Ware	1,750	3,326	1,576	—
Bags and Sacks	6,283	8,731	1,448	—
Bark	2,194	496	—	1,698
Beche-le-mer	4,353	933	—	3,420
Beer—				
In Bottle	23,309	19,840	—	3,469
„ Bulk	11,553	10,369	—	1,184
Blankets	789	2,243	1,454	—
Bone-dust	3,087	5,656	2,569	—
Butter and Chese	21,337	43,268	21,931	—
Carriage Materials	439	1,016	577	—
Casks—Empty	2,381	5,489	3,108	—
Chinese Provisions	1,904	3,093	1,189	—
Coals	292,201	298,195	5,994	—
Coffee	10,628	12,183	1,555	—
Copper	25,022	74,805	49,783	—
Copper Ore	10,000	2,346	—	7,654
Cotton	10,905	4,760	—	6,145
Drugs and Medicines	15,106	12,051	—	3,055
Flour	136,996	82,665	—	54,331
„ Corn	—	3,102	3,102	—
Fruit—				
Green	25,730	46,076	20,346	—
Dried	13,929	12,012	—	1,917
Gold—				
Bars	225,040	416,570	191,530	—
Dust	157,576	161,690	4,114	—
Coins	1,771,005	2,184,612	413,607	—
Grain—				
Maize	144,850	186,551	41,701	—
Oats	3,973	2,272	—	1,701
Rice	45,741	24,916	—	20,825
Wheat	4,024	9,700	5,676	—

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 13.

TABLE B.—*continued.*

Articles.	1868.	1869.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Guano	4,166	438	—	3,728
Gum	1,955	460	—	1,495
Hardware	68,146	61,998	—	6,148
Hay	4,361	7,887	3,526	—
Instruments—Musical	1,014	2,626	1,612	—
Iron—Galvanized	2,529	4,342	1,813	—
Leather—				
Unmanufactured	32,727	47,166	14,439	—
Boots and Shoes	63,840	45,433	—	18,407
Linen and Drapery	143,933	136,585	—	7,348
Live Stock—				
Horses	16,191	27,677	11,486	—
Horned Cattle	26,153	7,342	—	18,811
Sheep	5,084	3,408	—	1,676
Pigs	1,285	3,732	2,447	—
Machinery	16,778	18,193	1,415	—
Matches	5,559	4,984	—	575
Molasses and Treacle	18,973	16,937	—	2,036
Oil—				
Black	1,705	5,878	4,173	—
Kerosene	7,036	13,312	6,276	—
Oil Stores	23,699	30,813	7,114	—
Opium	11,918	10,420	—	498
Pitch, Tar, and Resin	851	1,172	321	—
Preserved Meats	45,077	54,044	8,967	—
Skins—				
Horned Cattle	48,811	45,089	—	3,722
Sheep	2,652	8,259	5,607	—
Spirits—				
Brandy	41,091	42,652	1,561	—
Rum	9,853	4,700	—	5,153
Geneva	11,796	8,355	—	3,441
Stationery and Books	8,142	5,650	—	2,492
Sugar—				
Refined	68,355	68,139	—	216
Unrefined	84,759	64,058	—	20,701
Sundries	7,868	7,122	—	746
Tallow	176,340	201,834	25,494	—
Tea	128,835	107,679	—	21,156
Timber	13,058	23,870	10,812	—
Tobacco	150,779	48,395	—	102,384
Toys and Fancy Goods	15,944	19,454	3,510	—
Wine	29,631	28,976	—	655
Wire	4,923	7,442	2,519	—
Wool	2,693,105	2,503,704	—	189,401
Woolpacks	5,229	5,670	441	—

A very large increase in import value is observable in the following articles:—The increase, as compared with 1868, being on apparel and slops, 212,552*l.*; woollens, 67,200*l.*; hosiery and gloves, 57,725*l.*; hardware, 50,800*l.*; hats, caps, and bonnets, 46,601*l.*; machinery, 38,791*l.*; iron and steel, 35,205*l.*; cottons, 34,146*l.*; with a marked increase also in beer in bottle, tallow, linen and drapery, haberdashery, stationery, and millinery.

The largest decrease of imports, compared with 1868, is shown in gold dust, 902,155*l.*; flour and bread, 96,862*l.*; rice, 95,341*l.*; tea, 57,634*l.*; spirits, 48,674*l.*; wool, 45,468*l.*; sugar (raw), 40,426*l.*; boots and shoes, 37,339*l.*; opium, 18,947*l.*; dried fruits, 17,641*l.*; oils, 15,062*l.*; with large decrease also in wheat, beer in wood, wine, coffee, copper, coin, and apothecaries' ware.

The exports seaward is shown, by Table 40, to have exceeded that of 1868 by 384,820*l.* The principal items of increase were:—Gold coins, 413,607*l.*; gold bars, 191,530*l.*; copper, 49,783*l.*; maize and wheat, 47,377*l.*; tallow, 25,494*l.*; butter and cheese, 21,931*l.*; green fruit, 20,346*l.*; leather unmanufactured, 14,439*l.*; timber, 10,812*l.*; live stock, 10,486*l.*; while there was a decrease of exports, compared with 1868, on wool, 189,401*l.*; tobacco, 102,384*l.*; flour, 54,331*l.*; tea, 21,150*l.*; rice, 20,825*l.*; sugar, 20,917*l.*; and horned cattle, 18,811*l.*

Shipping.

The number of vessels inwards is 2,022, being 51 less than the previous year; but the vessels visiting our shores would appear to have been of a much larger size, as the tonnage has increased from 724,193 in 1868, to 741,369 tons in 1869.

The outward shipping shows an increase in both instances; the number having increased from 2,218 to 2,236, and the measurement from 776,449 to 833,248 tons.

The departures exceeded the arrivals by 214 vessels, of an aggregate of 91,879 tons. Of the arrivals, 51 per cent. were at the port of Sydney, and 42 per cent. at Newcastle; but of the departures, 48 per cent. left Newcastle, and 45 per cent. Sydney Harbour, viz.:—

Ports.	Inwards.	Outwards.
Sydney	1,044	1,009
Newcastle	854	1,084
Three other Ports	124	143
	2,022	2,236

But a small percentage of the vessels came to Sydney in ballast, whilst at Newcastle 37 per cent. came empty. On the other hand, 4 per cent. left the port of Sydney without freight, whilst but one vessel left the port of Newcastle, the principal coaling depôt of the Australian Colonies.

From the shipbuilding establishments 32 new vessels were turned out, of the registered measurement of 1,611 tons, against 22 vessels, of 1,696 tons, the year previous.

PART IV.

MILLS AND MANUFACTURES.

Mills for grain number 183, being two in excess of the year 1868. Those worked by steam show an increase of five, but those propelled by water power are one short, whilst wind and water mills remain the same in number.

Manufactories, Works, &c., &c.

The number has now reached 4,497, being 935 in excess of the year 1868.

The settled districts numbered 3,708, whilst those in the unsettled or pastoral districts numbered 789.

Cloth and Tweeds.

Two new manufactories have been established, which has increased the number to seven. The quantity of cloth and tweeds manufactured was 233,904 yards, being 6,440 yards in excess of the previous year. The increased production in woollens of late years is indicative of the demand that is springing up for goods which will bear a very favourable comparison with the imported article.

Soap and Candles.

The manufacture of soap has declined from 81,549 cwt. to 73,943 cwt., whilst the quantity of candles produced has increased by 1,481 cwt., making a total of 15,636 cwt. of tallow candles made in 1869. During the last two years, but half the quantity of candles has been manufactured compared with the previous two years. The falling off is no doubt attributable to the use of kerosene oil, which is now produced in the Colony in large quantities and of excellent quality, and sold at a very cheap rate.

The Table following shows the manufacture of both articles for the last two years, compared with the two years previous:—

Years.	Number of Establishments.	Soap, quantity.	Candles, quantity.
		cwt.	cwt.
1866–67	30	146,229	49,546
1868–69	27	155,492	29,791
Decrease	3	—	19,755
Increase	—	9,263	—

Tobacco.

Of tobacco it seems that 1,019 cwt. was manufactured in excess of the previous year, whilst the number of establishments show a decrease of four, viz. :—

	No.	Quantity.
1868 - - - -	40	7,808
1869 - - - - -	36	8,927
Decrease - - -	4	—
Increase - - - -	—	1,119

Tallow and Lard.

An unusually large number of sheep has fallen to the pot during the last two years (410,048), more particularly with respect to the present year, when the number reached 230,550.

The graziers have no doubt resorted to this mode of thinning their herds owing to the want of a market for the disposal of their surplus stock. With regard to horned cattle, it would seem that they can be turned into a more profitable investment, as 8,530 head only were disposed of during the last four years (of which number 246 head only were slaughtered in 1869), whereas in the preceding six years 226,976 head fell to the pot—the annual average being 37,829 head of cattle.

The quantity of tallow produced shows an increase of 22,162 cwt. on the previous year, viz. :—

	Cwt.
1868 - - - -	45,013
1869 - - - -	67,175
Increase - -	22,162

It should be remembered that in the Metropolitan District the production is chiefly from the refuse from butchers' shops.

The quantity of lard produced has increased from 5,180 lbs. in 1868 to 6,065 lbs. in 1869 ; and the pigs killed increased from 466 to 1,446, the excess on the previous year being 980.

Production.

The Branch Royal Mint received by escort from the several Gold Fields in 1869 224,382 oz., of £866,746 value, being a decrease on the previous year of 5,357 oz., of 28,083*l.* value.

The Gold Fields in the Western District yielded 130,954 oz., of 506,722*l.* value. In the Southern District the yield was 80,589 oz., valued at 310,989*l.*; and in the Northern District the production was 12,839 oz., to the amount of 49,035*l.*

The most prolific Gold Field was Grenfell, in the Western District, which produced 41,542 oz., of 164,612*l.* value. The next in rank is Araluen (Southern District), from which Gold Field the Mint received 38,824 oz., of 150,930*l.* value.

The gold from the Western District ranged from 3*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* (Orange) to 3*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* (Grenfell) per oz.; in the Southern District, from 3*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* (Gundagai) to 3*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.* (Tumberumba) per oz.; and in the Northern District, from 3*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* (Scone) to 3*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* (Rocky River) per oz.

Licences issued for mining purposes in the Western and Southern Districts show an increase, whilst those in the Northern District have fallen off, viz. :—

	Western.	Southern.	Northern.	Total.
1868 - -	6,171	4,562	1,391	12,124
1869 - - -	6,511	5,292	1,140	12,943
Increase -	340	730	—	819
Decrease - -	—	—	251	—

Coal Mines.

Our coal mines do not appear to have been worked with the same activity as in 1868, for it appears there is a falling off in the production of the mineral of 34,457 tons, of 71,664*l.* value, viz.:—

Year.	No. of Mines.	Quantity.	Value.
		Tons.	£
1868	28	954,230	417,809
1869	33	919,773	346,145
Increase	5	—	—
Decrease	—	34,457	71,664

In 1868 five mines were not worked, and in 1869 seven were closed.

However, it is clear that we have been more economical at home, for our exports seaward show an increase of 47,517 tons, of 5,994*l.* value, viz.:—

	Tons.	Value.
		£
1868	548,036	292,201
1869	595,553	298,195
Increase	47,517	£5,994

Victoria was our best customer, and had from us 174,446 tons, of 78,711*l.* value; then New Zealand was supplied with 90,581 tons, of 41,905*l.* value; and South Australia received 58,642 tons, of 20,296*l.* value. The United States, Shanghai, &c., &c., received also large supplies of coal.

Copper.

The quantity of ore raised was 1,761 tons, valued at 26,846*l.*

Cinnabar.

From the cinnabar mine 120 tons were raised, of 200*l.* value.

Kerosene.

7.500 tons of kerosene shale were raised, at three mines, of the value of 18,750*l.*

This is forming an item of export, as 572 tons were shipped, of 687*l.* value.

Agriculture.

The agricultural returns for the past year are highly satisfactory. Nearly the whole of the crops show extended cultivation, whilst at the same time the yield from each has been unusually large.

The occupiers of land, exclusive of those for pastoral purposes, have increased from 26,581 in 1868 to 27,720 in 1869, the addition being 1,139, or 4 per cent.

The extent of holdings have increased from 7,464,924 acres in 1868 to 7,857,469 acres in 1869, being an augmentation of 392,545 acres, or 5 per cent. on the area of the previous year.

The acreage under cultivation shows an increase of 47,498 acres, or nearly 11 per cent., viz.:—

	Acres.
1868	434,826
1869	482,324
Increase	47,498

Holdings enclosed but not in cultivation expanded from 3,301,140 acres in 1868 to 3,693,213 acres in 1869,—the increase being 392,073 acres, or over 11 per cent. Holdings unenclosed have decreased from 3,728,957 acres in 1868 to 3,681,931 acres in 1869, the decrease being 47,026 acres, or $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 13.

The following table affords a view of those crops showing extended cultivation, and it is gratifying to observe the large increases that have taken place in all the principal items of production.

Increased cultivation of principal Crops.

Crops.	1868.		1869.		Increase.	
	Acres.	Produce.	Acres.	Produce.	Acres.	Produce.
Wheat	164,206	1,787,085 bushels	189,452	*3,200,959 bushels	25,246	1,413,874 bushels
Maize	120,807	3,777,405 „	128,041	†4,880,805 „	7,234	1,103,400 „
Barley	6,397	94,715 „	9,151	148,617 „	2,754	53,902 „
Oats	12,129	164,687 „	17,301	400,766 „	5,172	236,079 „
Rye	2,187	23,164 „	2,378	37,434 „	191	14,270 „
Potatoes	16,391	30,768 tons	17,132	54,200 tons	741	23,432 tons
Arrowroot	14	14,236 lbs.	31	34,046 lbs.	17	19,810 lbs.
Sorghum, &c.	261	5,240 cwt.	296	8,460 cwt.	35	3,220 cwt.
Sugar-cane	2,584	3,264,824 lbs.	3,917	3,563,704 lbs.	1,333	298,880 lbs.
Hay	67,761	80,543 tons	75,034	131,985 tons	7,273	51,442 tons
Vines (Wine)	3,116	412,587 gallons	3,606	460,321 gallons	790	47,734 gallons
Gardens and Orchards	13,529	—	14,516	—	987	—
All other	3,145	—	3,289	—	144	—

* Great doubts have been expressed as regards the yield of wheat in the Orange district, and it is asserted that the produce is more than double the quantity stated in the return (294,098 bushels). I have caused inquiry to be made as regards the quantity grown there, and the collectors state they have reason to believe there is more wheat grown in the district than the return shows, and promised to obtain from the wheat buyers a better estimate when the season is advanced and the crops threshed out; but as yet I have received no communication upon the subject.

† Since the collection of the agricultural returns, the Districts of Manning River, M'Leay River, and Port Macquarie have been visited with severe floods and wind, destroying a large quantity of the maize grown.

Crops exhibiting decrease.

The crops that have decreased are—millet, from 156 acres, with a produce of 1,931 bushels in 1868, to 134 acres, with a yield of 1,806 bushels in 1869, the decrease being 22 acres, and produce 125 bushels. Tobacco has decreased from 875 acres in 1868 to 366 acres in 1869, showing a falling off of 509 acres; the produce has fallen from 7,925 to 3,192 cwt., showing a decrease of 4,733 cwt. The acreage under green fodder fell from 21,193 acres in 1868 to 17,375 acres in 1869, showing a decrease of 3,818 acres.

Wheat.

The quantity of wheat gathered from the harvest of the present year averaged close upon 17 bushels to the acre, which is an increase upon the previous year's productions of about 6 bushels to the acre.

The crops of the present year average about 5½ bushels per head of the population; and had not seed wheat to be included, the farmers would have grown close upon sufficient for the requirements of the people.

The importations of bread-stuffs in 1869 amounted to 435,322*l.*, or at the rate of 17*s.* 11*d.* per head of the population; whilst our own growing amounted in value to about 960,287*l.* per annum, or an average of 1*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* per head,—together, 2*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* per head.

The exportation of bread-stuffs was at the rate of 3*s.* 9*d.* per head; leaving the rate of our own consumption at 2*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* per head. The average rate for the five years was 2*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.* per head per annum.

During the quinquenninal period the importation of bread-stuffs have, on an average, exceeded in value 600,000*l.* sterling per annum; but it should be borne in mind that the estimated value of the imports in the two years 1865–66 reached the large sum of 1,661,670*l.*, whereas in the three following years the amount was less by 277,090*l.*

The statement following will show the importations of wheat and flour, the estimated value, and the quantity and rate per head of the population, for the five years 1865 to 1869 inclusive:—

Year.	Population.	Imports.				Colonial Produce.				Value of Imports and Colonial Produce per head of Population.	Exports.			
		Wheat.	Flour and Bread.	Estimated Value.	Value of Imports per head of Population.	Wheat.	Average price per bushel in Sydney.	Estimated Value.	Value of Colonial Produce per head of Population.		Wheat.	Flour and Bread.	Estimated Value.	Value of Exports per head of Population.
		Bushels.	Tons.	£	£ s. d.	Bushels.	s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Bushels.	Tons.	£	s. d.
1865	411,388	692,826	24,322	807,289	1 19 2	1,013,863	8 0	405,545	0 19 8	2 18 10	15,307	271	13,345	0 7
1866	431,412	1,093,081	29,832	854,381	1 19 7	2,226,027	6 6	723,459	1 13 6	9 13 1	71,890	152	23,691	1 1
1867	447,620	755,973	16,455	402,279	0 17 11	1,443,807	*5 0	358,452	0 16 0	1 13 11	78,480	112	23,580	1 0
1868	466,765	609,011	20,242	546,979	1 3 5	1,787,085	6 6	580,802	1 4 10	2 8 3	12,974	117	6,981	0 3
1869	485,356	777,408	16,301	435,322	0 17 11	3,200,959	6 0	960,287	1 19 6	2 17 5	31,499	6,055	92,365	3 9
Average of 5 years		785,659	21,430	609,250	1 7 7	1,932,348	6 5	605,709	1 6 8	2 14 3	42,030	1,341	31,992	1 4

* In 1867 the average price per bushel ranged from 5*s.* to 5*s.* 3*d.*,—calculations made on 5*s.*

Our exports in 1869 were unusually large, having exceeded in value the aggregate of the four preceding years by the sum of 24,768*l.* NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 13.

In the year 1865 the wheat crops extended over 34 acres per cent. of the total quantity of land under cultivation, and the produce average close upon 8 bushels to the acre. In the following year 4 acres per cent. more were under crop, whilst the yield was 5 bushels per acre better. In 1867 the wheat crop fell to 36 acres per cent., and the average produce only realized 9½ bushels to the acre. The acreage under crop in 1868 was increased, and reached 37½ acres per cent., and the yield was also more abundant by 1 bushel to the acre over the previous year. Again, in 1869 the area under cultivation was increased to 39 acres per cent., with a fine produce of nearly 17 bushels to the acre. Thus it appears that the present year of the quinquennial period was the most prolific in productions to the tillers of the soil, and the year 1865 the least favourable. Wheat.

The wheat crops of the last five years averaged 37 acres per cent. to total acreage under cultivation, with an average produce of 11½ bushels to the acre.

Maize.

The area of land sown with maize in 1869 covered 26 acres per cent. to total cultivation, and in the year previous 1 acre per cent. more was under crop; but the prolific yield of the former year averaged 38 bushels to the acre against 31 in the latter year, thereby showing a large increase of 7 bushels to the acre. The present year's production is by far the largest during the last five years, and is 8 bushels per acre above the average. Export of Maize.

The Australian Colonies are greatly dependent upon the farmers of this Colony for their supply of maize; and I append a table showing that our exports in 1869 were over 186,500*l.*, against 144,850*l.* the year previous.

Country to which Exported.	Year 1868.		Year 1869.	
	Bushels.	£	Bushels.	£
Victoria	917,394	115,750	936,591	161,114
Queensland	113,769	13,353	54,709	8,109
New Zealand	85,456	11,849	89,527	15,035
Tasmania	6,900	804	3,040	442
South Australia	2,471	352	600	90
Total Colonies	1,125,990	142,108	1,084,467	184,790
Great Britain	13,689	1,826	—	—
New Caledonia	6,034	786	11,906	1,761
Mauritius	1,200	130	—	—
In all	1,146,913	144,850	1,096,373	186,551

Barley.

Barley covered 1·8 acre per cent. to total cultivated lands, and the crop averaged 16 bushels to the acre. In 1868 the area sown with seed formed 1·4 per cent., and the produce averaged 14·8 bushels per acre. The average produce of the five years was about 13½ bushels to the acre.

Oats.

The acreage under oats has increased, being 3·5 acres per cent., against 2·7 per cent. to total cultivated lands the year previous. The produce has likewise increased, yielding 23 bushels, against 13·5 bushels per acre in 1868. The five years' average was nearly 16 bushels to the acre.

Potatoes.

During the last two years the potato crop covered about the same extent of land (3·5 and 3·7 acres) to total land under cultivation, whilst the average produce shows an increase from 1·9 to 3·1 tons per acre. The average of the five years was 2·3 tons per acre.

Hay.

The acreage under hay during the last two years is about the same, averaging 15½ per cent. to total cultivation, but the produce has increased over ½ ton to the acre.

For easy reference the following table, of much interest, has been added, affording a view of the proportion the principal crops bore to the total quantity of land under culti-

NEW SOUTH WALES.

vation, as well as the produce per acre of each of the principal crops for the last five years, viz.:—

No. 13. Quinquennial averages of principal Crops, and the produce of same.

	Crops. (Acres per cent. to Total Cultivation.)						Produce per Acre.					
	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	Mean.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	Mean.
Wheat -	34·8	38·7	36·0	37·7	39·2	37·3	7·7	12·7	9·6	10·8	16·9	11·5 bushels
Maize -	29·9	26·4	27·9	27·7	26·5	27·7	24·3	32·4	27·1	31·2	38·1	30·6 „
Barley -	1·5	1·3	1·2	1·4	1·8	1·4	9·9	14·7	12·1	14·8	16·2	13·5 „
Oats - -	2·8	3·3	3·1	2·7	3·5	3·1	10·6	20·3	11·9	13·5	23·1	15·9 „
Potatoes -	4·0	4·1	3·7	3·7	3·5	3·8	2·0	2·3	2·1	1·9	3·1	2·3 tons
Hay - -	16·3	16·5	17·9	15·6	15·5	16·4	0·8	1·5	1·2	1·1	1·7	1·3 „

In looking further into this important subject, I find that the average rate of consumption of bread-stuffs for the quinquennial period was 17½ tons per 100 of the population; and the rate of consumption in 1869 was 2½ tons more, or 20 tons in all. In 1866 the proportion was very high, being 23½ tons to every 100 of the people: a quantity much in excess of the wants of the community, and probably had its effect upon making importers more chary in dealing with bread-stuffs the two following years, when the rate per 100 averaged 14 and 15½ tons respectively.

The following Table shows the quantities of bread-stuffs imported, produced in the Colony, and exported, during the last five years; also the proportion per 100 of the population:—

Year.	Population.	Import of Bread-stuffs (in Flour).	Colonial Produce (in Flour).	Total.	Export of Bread-stuffs (in Flour).	Net Quantity for Home Consumption.	Proportion per 100 of Population.
		tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
1865	411,388	39,718	22,530	62,248	611	61,637	14·9
1866	431,412	54,122	49,467	103,589	1,749	101,840	23·6
1867	447,620	33,254	31,862	65,116	1,856	63,260	14·1
1868	466,765	33,775	39,713	73,488	405	73,083	15·6
1869	485,356	33,576	71,132	104,708	6,755	97,953	20·1
Average of 5 years -		38,889	42,941	81,830	2,275	79,555*	17·6

* Wheat for seed is included.

NOTE.—45 bushels of wheat to the ton of flour.

Vineyards.

Increased activity is apparent in the culture of the vine, and the growers seem to have been better rewarded of late years for their industry. During the space of six years the area under cultivation has considerably more than doubled, whilst the production of wine has nearly trebled in quantity; and also in the year under review the yield of wine per acre has been more prolific than any succeeding year. Each successive year since 1865 shows increased acreage and produce.

Area for Wine-making.

In the year 1865 the vineyard plantation occupied an area of 2,126 acres, of which 1,243¼ acres were appropriated for the purposes of wine, and produced 168,123 gallons, or an average of 135 gallons to the acre. The area planted with vines in 1869 covered 3,906¾ acres, of which 2,039¼ acres were set apart for wine-making, and produced 460,321 gallons, being an average of 225 gallons to the acre.

In the quinquennial period, the produce of wine to the acre ranged from 135 to 225 gallons—the average being 189 gallons.

The following table shows the acreage planted with the vine, as also the proportion per cent. the area for wine-making bore to the total cultivation. The quantity of wine produced, and the yield per acre, is also given for the last five years:—

	Acres under Cultivation.	For Wine-making.		Production.	
		Acres.	Percentage.	Wine, in Gallons.	Produce per Acre.
1865 - - -	2,126	1,243¼	58·46	168,123	135
1866 - - -	2,281	1,357½	59·49	242,183	178
1867 - - -	2,531½	1,483½	58·59	285,283	192
1868 - - -	3,115½	1,917	61·64	412,587	215
1869 - - -	3,906¾	2,039¼	52·20	460,321	225
Average of 5 years -	2,792	1,608	58·05	313,699	189

The vines for table use occupy an area of 679¾ acres, or 4 acres short of the previous year; but the quantity of fruit gathered has increased from 693 tons in 1868 to 955½ tons in 1869. NEW SOUTH WALES.

Vines unproductive are allotted an area of 1,187¾ acres, against 513¼ acres in 1868, showing a large increase of 674½ acres. No. 13. Table use. Unproductive.

Liens on Growing Crops.

In connection with the agricultural interest will be found a return of the number and amount of liens on growing crops; from which it appears that 151 liens, to the amount of 13,672*l.*, were registered, being about 2,364*l.* more than the sum invested in 1868.

Since the operation of the Act, in the year 1863 to 1869 inclusive, 869 liens have been registered, and the total sum invested amounted to 77,118*l.*, being on an average 11,017*l.* per annum.

Pastoral.

Horses, sheep and pigs exhibit a decrease in their numbers, whilst the horned cattle show an increase of 34,493 head, viz.:—

Year.	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
	No.	No.	No.	No.
1868 - - -	280,818	1,761,411	15,080,625	176,901
1869 - - - -	280,304	1,795,904	14,989,923	175,924
Increase - -	—	34,493	—	—
Decrease - - -	514	—	90,702	977

A comparative statement will be found showing the stock in the old settled counties and the pastoral districts, for the years ending 31st March, 1869–70.

In connection with the pastoral interest will be found a decennial table, showing the number and amount of liens on wool, and of mortgages on live stock, &c. In 1868, I find that 370 mortgages were effected, upon 2,997,019 sheep, 211,811 head of horned cattle, and 7,769 horses, for the sum of 1,399,479*l.*; and in 1869 the number of mortgages registered were 51 more, whilst the sheep decreased by 939,388, and cattle by 26,888; but the horses increased by 2,381, and the amount of investments was less by 204,076*l.* The sum lent on each mortgage averaged 3,618*l.* in 1869, and 2,635*l.* the former year. Mortgages on Live Stock.

During the present year there were discharged 85 mortgages, for the consideration of 741,238*l.*, leaving undischarged 244 mortgages to the extent of 454,165*l.*; and the preceding year, 111 mortgages were discharged for the sum of 962,596*l.*, leaving an undischarged balance of 420 mortgages for the sum of 436,883*l.*; but to what extent the undischarged balances have been effected by unregistered discharges there are no means of ascertaining. Discharge of Mortgages.

There is but a difference of one in the number of liens on wool compared with 1868; but the number of sheep shows an increase of 423,783, whilst the amount of liens has increased by 19,656, viz.:— Liens on Wool.

Year.	No. of Liens.	No. of Sheep.	Amount of Liens.
1868 - - -	286	3,695,587	512,121
1869 - - - -	285	4,119,370	531,777
Increase - -	—	423,783	19,656
Decrease - -	1	—	—

New South Wales.

No. 13.

PART VI.

Monetary and Financial.

Coin and Bullion.

A decennial table shows the amount of coin and bullion in the Mint and banks, and the increase or decrease on the previous year. From this table it appears that the coin and bullion on 31st December, 1869, was less by 987,672*l.* than in the previous year; the amount being stated at 2,379,916*l.*; and the average of the year fell from 2,009,826*l.* in 1868, to 1,561,245*l.* in 1869.

Paper Currency in Circulation.

The decrease observed in the previous paragraph would seem to be the means of causing a greater circulation of bank notes, for they show an increase of 67,628*l.* on the year 1868; and the average circulation has increased by 29,299*l.*, viz.:—

	1868.	1869.	Increase.
On 31st December - -	719,684	787,312	67,628
Average of year - -	653,183	682,482	29,299
Difference - - -	66,501	104,830	38,329

Liabilities, Assets, &c., of Banks.

A return will be found showing the liabilities and assets, and the capital and profits of the several banks, for each quarter of the year. Taking the fourth quarterly returns, it appears the liabilities are stated as 7,646,952*l.*, against 7,553,690*l.* in the year 1868, showing an increase of 113,262*l.* Their assets have decreased by 487,292*l.*, viz.:—

	£
1868 - - - - -	11,690,225
1869 - - - - - -	11,202,933
Decrease - - - -	£487,292

The rate per annum of last dividend declared by the banks ranged from 8 to 17 per cent.

Branch Royal Mint.

There is a large falling off in the receipts of gold by the Mint during the present year, which has had the effect of decreasing its operations, in the issue of coin and bullion, by over a million of pounds sterling, compared with the previous year.

The receipts of gold for coinage from our own Fields, and also the importations from the Colonies of Victoria, New Zealand, and Queensland, show a large decrease on the previous year, as witnessed by the following Table:—

Countries.	Import of Gold.					
	1868.		1869.		Decrease.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Oz.	£	Oz.	£	Oz.	£
New South Wales -	232,489	904,422	179,549	694,022	52,940	210,400
Victoria - - -	30,767	128,177	203	810	30,564	127,367
New Zealand - -	218,566	880,708	64,699	267,832	153,867	612,876
Queensland - - -	122,457	440,495	97,469	345,153	24,988	95,342
Three other places -	735	2,710	—	—	735	2,710
					Increase.	
Coin - - - -	792	3,012	4,083	15,670	3,291	12,658
Total - -	605,806	2,359,524	346,003	1,323,487	—	—

The coins issued show a decrease of 1,040,000*l.*, viz.:—

	Sovereigns.	Half-Sovereigns.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
1868 - - -	2,319,000	—	2,319,000
1869 - - - -	1,202,000	154,000	1,279,000
Decrease - -	1,117,000	—	1,040,000
Increase - - -	—	154,000	—

In bullion there was issued—

			£
In 1868 -	6,581 oz.	of the value of -	26,728
1869 -	9,936 „	„ - -	40,388
Showing an increase of	3,355 „	„ - -	£13,660

The total value of coin and bullion issued in the year 1868 was 2,345,728*l.*, against 1,319,388*l.* in 1869; showing a decrease of 1,026,340*l.*

The revenue decreased from 19,517*l.* in 1868, to 15,288*l.* in 1869.

Since the Mint was opened, on the 14th May, 1855, up to 31st December, 1869, there have been issued 24,697,500 sovereigns and 3,259,000 half-sovereigns, amounting to 26,327,000*l.*; and 421,363 oz. in gold bullion have also been issued, of 1,687,544*l.* value; making a grand issue of coin and bullion to the extent of 28,014,544*l.*

Railways.

During the year, railway communication has been extended 71 miles, of which the—

Northern Line was lengthened - -	31	miles.
Southern Line „ - - -	20	„
Western Line „ - - -	20	„

The number of passengers conveyed by railway was—

Season-ticket holders - - - -	223,428
Other passengers - - - -	759,635
Total - - - - -	983,063

The Southern Line had by far the largest share of the passenger traffic.

The amount received for coaching, including rents, &c., has increased from 99,408*l.* in 1868, to 109,427*l.* in 1869.

The carriage of goods shows a large increase on the previous year, viz.:—

	Quantity.	Amount.
	Tons.	£
1868 - - -	596,513 -	124,950
1869 - - - -	714,114	155,548
Increase - -	117,601 -	£30,598

On the Southern Line the goods traffic shows a falling off of 24,730 tons; but the receipts for the carriage have increased.

The total earnings of all the railway lines show an increase of 18· per cent, viz.:—

	£
1868 - - - - - -	224,358
1869 - - - - - -	264,975
Increase - - - - -	£40,617

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 13.

The expenditure for working expenses has increased from 144,080*l.* in 1868, to 176,362*l.* in 1869; the increase being 32,282*l.*, or 22¼ per cent.

Electric Telegraphs.

The means of communication by wire have been afforded to five new districts, making a total of 83 stations in the Colony at the end of the year.

The wire has been extended 668 miles, bringing the total length up to 5,053 miles.

145,370 telegrams were sent from the stations, being an increase of 12,498 on the previous year.

The revenue of the year shows a net profit of 4,646*l.* over the expenditure, viz.:—

	£
Revenue from 83 stations	30,150
Intercolonial balances	1,560
Guaranteed lines	1,064
Total revenue	32,774
Expenditure	28,128
Net profit	4,646

Up to the end of the year the total cost of construction of the several lines was 189,145*l.*, being an increase of 19,195*l.* on the expenditure of 1868.

Post Offices.

34 additional post offices have been opened, bringing the total number up to 521.

Persons employed.

Employment was given to 642 persons, being 43 in excess of the year 1868.

Postal Lines.

The postal lines show an increase of 514 miles, making the total length 13,238 miles.

Letters.

The total number of letters passing through the post offices shows an increase of 587,744, or 8·96 per cent.

On their own numbers—

Foreign letters	decreased	3·41	per cent.
Inland „	increased	11·17	„
Town „	„	14·72	„

The following table shows the number of letters posted during the last two years:—

Year.	Letters posted for Delivery.			
	Foreign.	Inland.	Town.	Total.
1868	1,104,938	4,996,464	454,488	6,555,890
1869	1,067,251	5,554,950	521,433	7,143,634
Increase	—	558,486	66,945	587,744
Decrease	37,687	—	—	—

In the last decade 58,773,774 letters have passed through the several post offices of the Colony, of which number 10,360,209, or 17½ per cent., were classified as foreign; 44,077,820, or 75 per cent., were for inland delivery; and 4,335,745, or 7½ per cent., were for town delivery.

Newspapers posted to places beyond the Colony have increased, whilst those for Inland delivery have fallen off, viz.:—

Year.	Foreign.	Inland.	Total.
1868	932,154	2,648,178	3,580,332
1869	1,112,232	2,481,321	3,593,553
Increase	180,078	—	13,221
Decrease	—	166,857	—

In the decennial period 39,943,613 newspapers have passed through the several post offices, of which number 4,335,745, or 11 per cent., were foreign, and 30,137,741, or 89 per cent., inland.

Packets, &c., show a large increase on the previous year, viz. :—

	No.
1868 - - - - -	116,987
1869 - - - - - -	158,034
Increase - - -	41,047, or 35 per cent.

1,888,371 packets, &c., have passed through the several post offices during the last ten years.

Over one hundred millions of letters, newspapers, packets, &c., have passed through the post offices during the last decade.

The revenue shows an increase of 2,518*l.*, or 3 per cent., and the expenditure 1,765*l.*, or nearly 2 per cent.; the excess of receipts over expenditure being 753*l.* or 1 per cent., viz. :—

Year.	Income.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1868 - - -	83,202	88,935
1869 - - -	85,720	90,700
Increase - -	2,518	1,765

Money Orders.

The large amount of accommodation afforded the public shows how well the system is appreciated.

Six new branch offices have been opened, making a total of 164 offices distributed throughout the Colony, at the end of the year.

Money orders were issued to the number of 66,062, being an increase of 9,570 on the previous year; the accommodation afforded amounted to 288,476*l.*, or 40,988*l.*, or 16 per cent., over the year 1868.

59,129 orders were paid, against 50,437 in 1868, showing an increase of 8,692. The payments in 1869 amounted to 263,297*l.*, or 40,727*l.*, or 18 per cent., in excess of the previous year.

In the space of five years the orders issued have increased over 200 per cent. in number, and 173 per cent. in amount; and the orders paid have increased 254 per cent. in number, and 229 per cent. in amount, viz. :—

Year.	Orders Issued.		Orders Paid.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
1864 - - -	21,905	105,681	16,691	80,040
1869 - - -	66,062	288,476	59,129	263,298
Increase - -	44,157	182,795	42,438	183,258

The revenue exceeded the expenditure by the sum of 423*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*, viz. :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue - - - - - -	3,048	3	4
Expenditure - - - - - -	2,624	4	1
Net profit - - -	£423	19	3

The revenue includes the sum of 165*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* interest from the Bank of New South Wales.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 13.

Public Accounts.

The receipts and disbursements during the year 1869 stood as follows:—

	Receipts.				Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Consolidated Revenue Fund	2,553,055	9	2		2,617,205	3	10
Loans' Account	1,073,291	15	4		616,476	5	5
Clergy and School Lands Revenue Account	19,647	15	0		9,807	14	6
Civil Service Superannuation Fund	10,286	12	9		15,298	10	0
Police Reward Fund	2,820	5	9		1,163	0	7
Police Superannuation Fund	4,402	0	8		5,854	10	3
Special Receipts' Account	105,799	4	10		116,344	6	11
Trust Moneys' Deposit Account	116,277	13	1		108,151	18	7
	£3,885,580	16	7		£3,490,301	10	1
Civil Service Superannuation Fund:—							
Debentures (Proceeds of)	4,520	0	0		—		
„ Sold	—				4,500	0	0
Balances at the credit of the several Accounts on 31st December, 1868	427,667	5	0		—		
Do. do. 31st December, 1869	—				822,966	11	6
Total	£4,317,768	1	7		£4,317,768	1	7

The receipts in aid of the Consolidated Revenue show an increase of 99,081*l.* compared with 1868.

The items exhibiting the principal increases were—

	£	s.	d.
Land Revenue	42,804	8	7
Railway Tolls, &c.	57,349	5	4
Postage	4,460	11	10
Stamps	5,124	12	4

And those items showing the chief decreases were—

	£	s.	d.
Customs	8,572	9	2
Duty on Spirits and Molasses	11,392	10	9
Mint Receipts	4,228	19	5

The disbursements out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund show a small decrease of 491*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* on the previous year, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
1868	2,617,696	16	11
1869	2,617,205	3	10
Decrease	£491	13	1

The receipts were at the rate of 5*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* per head of the population, and the disbursements 5*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* per head.

Public Debt.

On the 31st December, 1868, Debentures and Treasury Bills were—

	£
Outstanding to the value of	8,564,830
This amount has been increased by	2,736,300
Making the amount of each issue sold	11,301,130
Amount written off	1,755,100
Leaving outstanding, 31st December, 1869	£9,546,030

The annual interest on total loan outstanding for each service amounts to 468,519*l.*, against 419,923*l.* in 1868.

The Public Debt is at the rate of 19*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per head of the population, and the annual interest payable 19*s.* 3d. per head.

Local Revenues.

Full information relative to the working of the several municipal institutions will be found in the statistical volume.

PART VII.

MISCELLANEOUS RETURNS.

Upon the Public Works of the Colony under the supervision of the Government, there has been expended a sum of money exceeding 960,000*l.*, viz.:—

Nature of Work.	1868.	1869.	Increase.	Decrease.
RAILWAYS—	£	£	£	£
Lines open for Traffic	62,622	150,417	87,795	—
Extensions not open	560,841	456,666	—	104,175
Electric Telegraph Lines	12,755	20,676	7,921	—
Roads and Bridges	135,813	148,300	12,487	—
Harbours and Rivers	78,483	76,731	—	1,752
FitzRoy Dry Dock	4,721	4,548	—	173
Buildings, &c., &c.	95,305	95,186	—	119
Minor Roads and Bridges (not classified)	7,935	7,784	—	151
Total	958,475	960,308	108,203	106,370

The total expenditure for the last two years was close upon two millions of pounds sterling.

The expenditure upon the sewerage of the city was 40,236*l.*, against 39,649*l.* the year before, and upon the water-works, 34,302*l.*, being 21,388*l.* short of the expenses of 1868.

Meteorology.

The following table will afford a view of the average rainfall and the prevailing direction of the wind, as registered at the stations where observations were taken during the year. :—

Stations.	Height above the Sea.	Rainfall.		Prevailing Direction of the Wind at 9 A.M.
		Year's Average.	Rainy Days.	
	Feet.	Inches.	Number.	
Newcastle	109	36·52	103	N.W.
Sydney	155	48·19	134	W.N.W.
Cape St. George	242	49·42	133	W.
Lake George	2,269	27·19	129	N.W.
Deniliquin	410	12·45	39	S.
Kiandra	4,640	67·51	130	N.W.
Eden	107	26·57	125	S.W.
Average	—	38·26	113	N.W.

The greatest quantity of rain fell at Kiandra, where in 130 days the average depth of rain was 67·51 inches. Cape St. George received the next heaviest visitation, where the rain's average was 49·42 inches in 133 days. At Deniliquin the rainfall is comparatively light, averaging 12·45 inches in 39 days.

In Sydney the average quantity of rain that fell exceeded the previous year by 4·51 inches, and the number of rainy days was seven more.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 13.

Insolvencies.

The number of insolvents, together with their liabilities, are much less than in the previous year. The assets are large, and leave a small deficiency in comparison with the year 1868, viz. :—

	1868.	1869.
Number of insolvents - - -	534	530
	£	£
Liabilities - - - - -	572,651	483,145
Assets - - - - - -	233,099	296,979
Amount of deficiency -	339,552	186,166
Decrease - - -	£153,386	

The fees in insolvency decreased from 2,159*l.* in 1868 to 1,882*l.* in 1869.

Publicans' Licences.

Licences to retail fermented and spirituous liquors were issued to 2,192 applicants, being four less than the number granted the previous year.

The receipts from this source show a slight decrease on the year 1868, viz. :—

	1868.	1869.
	£	£
To retail fermented and spirituous liquors -	63,203	63,070
Billiard and bagatelle licences to publicans -	2,583	2,617
Total - - -	65,786	65,687
Decrease - - -	£99	

Volunteer Corps.

On the 31st December last the Volunteer Corps, including Naval Brigade, mustered 3,048 members, against 2,727 the year previous.

The expenditure for this service is a little better than 120*l.* in excess of the year 1868, viz. :—

	1868.	1869.
	£	£
Volunteer Corps - -	6,632	6,409
Naval Brigade - - -	3,660	4,008
	£10,292	£10,417

Political Franchise.

At the last General Election (1869–70) the registered electors numbered 116,968, and the number on the three Gold Fields Electorates, who vote upon the production of their mining or business licences, is estimated at 11,766, bringing up the total number to 128,734, or 47 per cent. of the population on their own numbers (271,005) at the end of the year.

About 56,331 electors exercised the franchise, leaving 72,403, or 58 per cent., who did not avail themselves of the privilege.

Land Sales.

From the returns it is manifest that a large quantity of land has been disposed of. The area sold in the old settled counties otherwise than conditionally shows an increase of 19,310 acres; but in the pastoral districts a decline of 4,366 acres is observed. However, there is a net increase on the total quantity sold over the previous year of 14,945 acres, viz. :—

	1868.	1869.	Increase.	Decrease.
Settled Districts - - -	21,594	40,905	19,311	—
Pastoral Districts - - - -	128,351	123,985	—	4,366
Total - - -	149,945	164,890	19,311	4,366

STATISTICAL VIEW OF THE PROGRESS OF THE COLONY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, FROM THE YEAR 1860 TO 1869 INCLUSIVE.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Schools.		Commitments for Trial.	Convictions.	Mills.	Manufactories, Works, &c.	Number of Acres under Crop.	Live Stock.				Coal Raised.		Land Sales.	
					Schools.	No. of Scholars.						Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Amount realized.
																tons.	£.	acres.	£.
1860	348,546	14,233	2,945	6,562	798	34,767	685	405	193	745	260,798	251,497	2,408,586	6,119,163	180,662	368,862	226,493	109,216	155,316
1861	[a]358,278	14,681	3,222	5,343	849	37,874	820	437	184	788	297,575	233,220	2,271,923	5,615,054	146,091	342,067	218,820	189,936	222,594
1862	367,495	15,434	3,326	6,524	925	42,211	879	514	181	859	302,138½	273,389	2,620,383	6,145,651	125,541	476,522	305,234	67,292 [b]357,280	216,988
1863	378,934	15,679	3,314	6,653	976	46,810	887	497	180	1,768	307,035	262,554	2,032,522	7,790,969	135,899	433,889	236,280	92,016 [b]259,369	192,113
1864	392,589	16,881	3,480	6,445	1,022	48,427	975	590	174	2,084	318,854	284,567	1,924,119	8,271,520	164,154	549,012	270,171	58,216 [b]165,616	112,719
1865	411,388	17,283	3,578	6,596	1,069	53,453	1,123	686	175	2,132	378,254½	282,587	1,961,905	8,132,511	146,901	585,525	274,303	101,350 [b]151,450	213,241
1866	431,412	16,950	3,462	7,361	1,155	59,594	1,255	770	159	2,389	451,225¼	278,437	1,771,809	11,562,155	137,915	774,238	324,049	109,177 [b]358,652	261,590
1867	447,620	18,317	3,426	8,631	1,180	63,183	1,180	702	188	2,274	413,164	280,201	1,728,427	13,909,574	173,168	770,012	342,655	119,044 [b]232,176	264,660
1868	466,765	18,485	3,736	7,225	1,254	66,835	1,006	601	181	3,562	434,756¼	280,818	1,761,411	15,080,625	176,901	954,231	417,809	149,945 [b]239,516	265,250
1869	485,356	19,243	3,799	6,691	1,304	71,523	1,112	682	183	4,497	482,324½	280,304	1,795,904	14,989,923	175,924	919,774	346,146	[c]151,172 [b]397,328	319,613

Year.	Shipping.				Exports, the Produce of the Colony.[d]									Value of total Imports.[d]	Value of total Exports.[d]	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Wool.		Tallow.		Oil, &c. Value.	Gold.[e]		Coal.				General.	Loans.	Ordinary.	Loans.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.						
					lbs.	£.	cwt.	£.	£.	ozs.	£.	ton.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1860	1,424	427,835	1,438	431,484	12,809,362	1,123,699	13,647	28,794	136	483,012	1,876,049	233,877	183,761	7,519,285	5,072,020	1,319,779	560,729	1,321,724	726,231
1861	1,327	366,236	1,391	379,460	12,745,891	1,396,426	60,638	60,816	—	488,293	1,890,908	207,780	160,965	6,391,555	5,594,839	1,448,610	394,457	1,540,005	433,224
1862	1,493	454,837	1,568	467,356	13,482,139	1,283,818	71,281	104,030	—	699,566	2,715,037	308,782	245,422	9,334,645	7,102,562	1,628,885	644,285	1,608,810	526,708
1863	1,494	479,827	1,603	511,373	14,791,849	1,262,274	17,709	31,221	—	605,722	2,361,949	298,038	220,181	8,319,576	6,936,839	1,550,047	649,116	2,064,299	537,795
1864	1,849	607,168	1,842	647,057	25,827,917[f]	2,294,615[f]	61,056	100,654	—	758,109	2,952,471	372,466	212,488	10,135,708[f]	9,037,832[f]	[g]1,693,792	290,983	1,862,245	464,656
1865	1,912	635,888	2,120	690,294	29,858,791[f]	2,283,560[f]	75,810	122,270	—	682,521	2,647,668	382,968	214,158	10,635,507[f]	9,563,818[f]	1,938,656[h]	298,578	1,760,516[h]	554,278
1866	2,099	730,354	2,259	784,381	36,980,685[f]	2,830,348[f]	27,726	51,826	285	751,700	2,924,891	540,905	300,588	9,403,192[f]	9,913,839[f]	2,833,459[h]	419,720	2,125,414[h]	887,157
1867	1,868	646,970	2,104	726,721	21,708,902	1,711,322	37,211	63,648	369	660,619	2,586,044	473,357	253,259	6,599,804	6,880,715	2,034,490[h]	534,966	2,249,521[h]	686,112
1868	2,073	724,193	2,218	776,449	25,721,632	1,879,751	93,901	144,377	630	487,600	1,895,929	548,036	292,201	8,051,377	7,192,904	2,476,700[h]	1,617,112	2,646,303[h]	640,536
1869	2,022	741,369	2,236	833,248	51,269,672[f]	3,162,522[f]	96,667	167,536	4,515	641,069	2,489,145	595,553	298,195	8,392,753[f]	9,933,442[f]	2,590,217[h]	1,073,292	2,649,329[h]	616,476

[a] The Census was taken on 7th April, 1861, population 350,860.
The population from the year 1836 is estimated up to the end of each year.

[b] Lands conditionally sold under the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861." Price of land in 1825, 7*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* per acre. The minimum price of land was 5*s.* per acre from 1832 to 1840; 12*s.* per acre, 1840–2. (20*s.* in Port Philip, in 1841). 20*s.* per acre from 1843 to present time. In 1822, 3, 4, 5, the accounts were kept in Spanish dollars and British money; generally in Spanish dollars. Transportation ceased in 1840. The Return of the Revenue and Expenditure previous to 1850 cannot be accurately ascertained. In addition to the above expenditure, the Imperial Government paid large sums for the maintenance of convicts and military. Gold discovered in May, 1851. The Loans Expenditure previous to 1853 cannot be shown.

[c] Errata.—1869—*Land Sales.* For "151,172," read "164,890" acres.

[d] Exclusive of the overland traffic.

[e] Includes the gold received at the Mint from other Colonies, and converted into bars and coin.

[f] Inclusive of the overland traffic.

[g] Includes 270,543*l.* proceeds of Treasury Bills, issued under the Act of Council 27th Vict., No. 8, to cover deficit of 1863 and previous years.

[h] The Revenue and Expenditure columns include "Church and School Lands Revenue," "Police Reward Fund," "Police Superannuation Fund," and "Superannuation Fund," 27th Vict., No. 11.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 13.

Lands conditionally sold also exhibit a marked increase on the previous year of 57,812 acres, and the number of selections shows also an addition of 1,805, viz.:—

	Selections.	Area.
	No.	Acres.
1868 - - -	3,194	239,516
1869 - - - -	4,994	397,328
Increase -	1,800	157,812

Lands sold otherwise than conditionally, and also conditionally, together, show an increase over 1868 of 172,757 acres, or 44 per cent., viz.:—

	Acres.
1868 - - - -	389,461
1869 - - - -	562,218
Increase - -	172,757

The total amount actually received in 1869 for lands sold, inclusive of conditional purchases and interest on land sales to conditional purchasers, was 319,612*l.*, against 265,249*l.* in the year 1868; the increased receipts being 54,363*l.*

I have, &c.,
(Signed) THEO. JAS. JAQUES,
Registrar-General.

QUEENSLAND.

No. 14.

QUEENSLAND.

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor BLACKALL to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 89.)

MY LORD, Government House, Brisbane, November 24, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of the Statistical Register of Queensland for the year ending 31st December, 1869.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) SAM. W. BLACKALL.
Governor.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT on STATISTICS of QUEENSLAND for the YEAR 1869.

To the Hon. ARTHUR HUNTER PALMER, Esq., Colonial Secretary, &c., &c.

SIR, Registrar-General's Office, Brisbane, September 30, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a compilation of "STATISTICS OF QUEENSLAND FOR THE YEAR 1869."

Some departure will be noticed from the form of Statistical Registers hitherto adopted. This alteration is chiefly owing to a considerable amount of matter that would otherwise have been included, having been already laid before Parliament in the "Blue Book" for 1869.

An Alphabetical Index to the contents of the tables, as well as a consecutive Index to the tables themselves, will be found at foot of this Report, accompanied by a statistical view of the Colony, which appears to give a very useful summary of some of the more important results.

The following remarks are also submitted on sundry matters of general interest:—

Parliamentary Business.

The first session of the fourth Parliament of Queensland having been adjourned on the 30th December, 1868, Parliament resumed on the 26th January, 1869; adjourned on the 29th January to the 16th March; proceeded to business on the 18th March, and continued to sit until the 22nd April, when it was prorogued until the 4th May by Commissioners, in the name of His Excellency the Governor.

During this session it appears that 23 Bills were introduced into Parliament, of which two became law: of these, 21 originated in the Legislative Assembly, one of which was *pro formâ*; two originated in the Legislative Council, one of which was *pro formâ*; and the other failed to pass.

The second session of the fourth Parliament.—Pursuant to proclamation of His Excellency the Governor, dated the 30th April, 1869, Parliament re-assembled on the 4th May, and was opened by His Excellency the Governor in person, and continued to sit until the 14th September, when Parliament was prorogued by His Excellency the Governor in person until the 30th day of November; and was subsequently further prorogued, by notice dated the 25th November, until the 8th day of February, 1870.

During this session there were originated in the Legislative Assembly 39 Bills, of which 17 became law; and in the Council, three, of which one was *pro formâ*, and the other two failed to pass.

Population.

Tables on this subject will be found, numbered from LXXXVI. to XCII., pages 139 to 142.

The population of the Colony, on the 31st December, 1869, is estimated at—

Males - - - - -	66,571
Females - - - - -	43,326
Total - - -	109,897

This has been arrived at by the addition, to the estimated population at the close of 1868, of the increase by births over deaths during the year—viz. 2893; and the subtraction of decrease by emigration as against immigration by sea—viz. 423.

It has not been possible to obtain any account of the movements into or out of the Colony by land, but it is not apprehended that much difference has arisen from this cause.

The mean population of the year is estimated at 108,662.

It is satisfactory to notice that, whilst the absolute number of births registered has increased from 4,460 in 1868 to 4,654 in 1869, the deaths have decreased, in the same period, from 1,799 to 1,761.

The difference caused by an excess of departures, 423, as against an excess of arrivals of 4,287 in the previous year, may be accounted for by the decrease of immigration from Europe and the migratory nature of the Gold Fields population. Indeed, the Gold Fields returns, as against those of 1868, give an absolute decrease of population amounting to 1,118, of which 517 were Chinese. On the other hand, the estimated total population in Municipalities has increased by 803.

The movements of Polynesians show an immigration of 327 against a return to their homes of 114, making an apparent increase of 213; but against this there appear to have been not less than 56 deaths, leaving a net increase of 157. It is not improbable that many deaths have occurred in the bush of labourers having left their employment, and whose deaths have not been registered.

Vital Statistics.

The practice has, hitherto, obtained of publishing these statistics separately, but of including in the "Statistical Register" a considerable amount of the results.

As on this occasion the Report on the Vital Statistics will be laid before Parliament almost, if not absolutely, at the same time as this Report, all that seems necessary here is to direct attention to the appended tables, numbered from XCVI. to CII., both inclusive.

The Meteorological Statistics of the Colony are at present almost in their infancy. In course of time, as the experience of years accumulates and the number of stations for observation increases, it may be possible to deduce from these statistics at least an approach to the periodical changes of weather. If such a result be obtained, it must be most valuable to the agriculturalist; but, from the geographical position of the Colony, one can hardly hope for any very well-defined result, and certainly not for many years to come.

The Meteorological Tables for the year 1869 will be found numbered from CIII. to CVI., both inclusive.

Public Lands.

The disposal of the public lands of the Colony demands some attention.

These lands are primarily divided into two classes, termed settled and unsettled, and subdivided into various districts.

QUEENSLAND.

The following table gives an approximate of the contents of the settled districts:—

NUMBER of SQUARE MILES contained in the SETTLED DISTRICTS, proclaimed under the Act 31 Victoria, No. 46.

Wide Bay and Burnett	7,050
Moreton	7,000
Darling Downs	6,000
Port Curtis	14,000
Kennedy	10,200
Cook	25,500
North Cook	3,200
Burke	7,500

Without alluding to a variety of past legislation, the principal Acts now in force are, with regard to the settled districts, "The Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868" (31 Victoria, No. 46); and as to unsettled, "The Pastoral Leases Act of 1869" (33 Victoria, No. 10).

The returns on the subject will be found in Tables X. to XVI., both inclusive, but a few general observations may be deemed appropriate here.

Tables Nos. XIV. and XV., give returns of the areas respectively of the lands occupied exclusively for pastoral purposes in the unsettled and the more important settled districts respectively.

With regard to the operations under "The Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868," by reference to Table No. X., there appear to have been resumed from pastoral occupation and for purposes of alienation, 7,308,969 acres; there have been selected, 1,102,075 acres; leaving, apparently, still open at end of 1869, 6,206,894 acres. But it must be understood that the lands so selected were not exclusively from the lands so resumed, and the amount left open for selection ought, consequently, to be larger than the apparent residue.

The dealings under the Act may be roughly classified as—

1. Reservations for public purposes (in which may fairly be included commonage reserves).
2. Selections for mining other than for gold.
3. Sales by selections under the Act, commonly described as leases, but, more correctly, purchases with the benefit of deferred payments if desired, and apparently subject to certain conditions. These selections comprise three classes of transactions—viz. conditional purchases, homestead selections, and pre-emptive purchases.
4. Selections for sugar and coffee growing.
5. Sales by auction.

The returns of the reservations, Class 1, will be found in Table XIII.

Those of mining selections, Class 2, together with the sugar and coffee, Class 4, are in Table XI.

The most numerous and important selections come under Class 3, and a return of them will be found in Table XII.

The latest return of a similar nature, comprising transactions from the commencement of the Act to the end of 1868, was presented to Parliament, and ordered to be printed, in February, 1869, and will be found in the "Votes and Proceedings" of the session 1868–9.

The following table may be useful, being a comparison between that return and the one for the transactions of the year 1869. It exhibits an increase in the ordinary and homestead selections, both in numbers and area taken; a decrease both in number and area of the pre-emptive selections; a total increase in area alienated; a total decrease in the proceeds, but an absolute increase in cash realized, and an increase in survey fees.

Nature of Selections.	Number of Selections.		Total of Areas Selected, in Acres.		Proceeds—Land Orders.		Proceeds—Cash.	
	1868.	1869.	1868.	1869.	1868.	1869.	1868.	1869.
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Conditional Purchases	608	909	393,034	499,811	8,990 18 11	5,220 14 10	13,088 5 0	15,106 19 8
Homestead Selections	330	683	27,312	61,294				
Pre-emptive Purchases	97	79	95,740	54,591				
Total - -	1,035	1,671	516,086	615,696	—	—	—	—

Total Proceeds—Land Orders and Cash - - - - { 1868, £22,079 3s. 11d. / 1869, 20,327 13 6

Survey Fees - - - - - - { 1868, 8,464 5 6 / 1869, 11,130 6 0

It may be noted that, in 1869, the total amount of survey fees was more than one-half of the purchase cost.

Table No. XVI. is a return of the results of the auction sale system. The following is a comparison, as far as materials at command will allow, of the total results as against similar ones for the year 1869:—

Year.	Extent Proclaimed.			
	Town.	Surburban.	Country.	Total.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
1868 - - -	No Return furnished by Survey Office.			
1869 - - -	699 1 20½	57,699 0 8½	113,815 1 16	172,213 3 5
Increase or Decrease in 1869 - -	—	—	—	—

Year.	Extent Sold.				Total Amount realized—Deed and Survey Fees included.
	Town.	Surburban.	Country.	Total.	
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.
1868 - - -	248 1 12	2,632 1 27	49,456 0 10	52,235 3 9	57,080 5 3
1869 - - -	121 1 5	6,623 2 28½	26,565 3 21	33,310 3 14½	32,638 19 5
Increase or Decrease in 1869 - -	126 3 7 Decrease.	3,991 1 1½ Increase.	22,880 0 29 Decrease.	18,924 3 34½ Decrease.	24,441 5 10 Decrease.

The falling off both of quantities sold and of proceeds is good proof that, as regards country lands, the selection with deferred payment system is preferred by the majority of land buyers, and the competition at auction sales now appears to be much reduced.

Production.

The natural sequel to a statement of the occupation of land is the result in the shape of production.

Live Stock.

Table XC. gives the total of live stock returned for the year 1869, as follows:—

Horses, 71,530; cattle, 994,600; sheep, 8,646,243; pigs, 29,466.

Comparing this return with that of 1868, a fair increase appears in horses, cattle, and pigs, but not in sheep, of which, on the contrary, there is a decrease of a trifle over three per cent. If this conclusion be correct, there must have been causes of decrease which require explanation.

Taking the number of sheep on 31st December, 1868, as - -	8,921,784
Assume that of them one-fourth were breeding ewes—say 2,000,000 —allow as an average increase 40 per cent. on such ewes - -	800,000
Add sheep imported - - - - - - - - - -	150,128
Gross total - - - -	9,872,610

QUEENSLAND.

Deduct return of boiled down, or otherwise disposed of, and allowing 100,000 for domestic consumption - - -	703,000	
And sheep exported - - - - - - - - -	101,271	
		804,271
There should remain - - - - - - - - - -		9,068,339
There are accounted for only - - - - - - - -		8,646,243
Leaving a loss unexplained of - - - - - - - -		422,096

The returns of sheep exported borderwise are probably very incomplete, but to fully explain the above discrepancy, very serious losses must be assumed from floods and other contingencies of the weather.

The modern processes for preserving and otherwise utilizing meat, have introduced a new and rapidly increasing industry into the Colony, at once adding to the exportable production and checking the undue increase of stock; but it is possible that a proper return has not been made of the number of sheep killed specially for this purpose.

The commercial results of pastoral production may be summarized from the exports, and compared with those of the preceding year, as follows :—

Year.	WOOL.		TALLOW.		HIDES.		SHEEPSKINS.		PRESERVED MEATS IN VARIOUS SHAPES.		Total value of pastoral produce exported.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Bundles.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
	lbs.	£	Tons.	£		£	No.	£		£	£
1868 -	18,906,778	1,057,211	3,706	122,544	52,040	29,827	7,306	30,956	1,546 casks and 74,850 lbs.	37,725	1,278,263
1869 -	22,386,650	1,098,149	5,240	166,039	46,019	32,384	6,823	26,040	359 casks and cases, and 187,080 lbs.	36,175	1,358,787
Increase	3,479,872	40,938	1,534	43,495	*6,021	2,557	*483	*4,916	—	*1,550	80,524

* Decrease.

AGRICULTURE.

This is, perhaps, the next most important and increasing interest of the Colony.

Table No. CXII. shows the total amount of land returned as under crop throughout the Colony, with details of the different amounts and descriptions of crops in the various districts.

The value of the live stock and agricultural statistics is most seriously diminished by the very imperfect system at present adopted for collecting the returns, The forms furnished are sufficient and amply distributed, and no blame can, under existing circumstances, be attached to the police who collect them. But there are no means either of enforcing any returns at all or (with slight exceptions) of checking the accuracy of the returns furnished, or of punishing wilful or careless errors in them. In some cases returns are flatly refused; in others, false information is given, sometimes from a narrow-minded prejudice against yielding information upon private affairs, but at other times with an absence of any apparent motive, except mischief, that is difficult to understand.

In the particular case of sheep returns some check is derivable from the returns to the Chief Inspector of sheep under "The Diseases in Sheep Act of 1867," and that gentleman has always cordially given any information or assistance in his power on the subject.

As to sugar, there is also a check through the Inspectors of Distilleries, but it only applies to those districts in which legalized stills are in operation.

The Customs returns afford some check upon the totals of exportable produce, but only to the extent that is actually exported.

It may be that any more perfect statistical system would be more expensive, and the expense in so sparsely populated a Colony as Queensland would be far higher than in a

smaller country with the same number of inhabitants; but the value of statistics varies directly with the amount of their accuracy, and the means of insuring that accuracy by competent checks.

The following is a comparison of the totals of the various crops, as between 1868 and 1869. It might have been desirable to give a more detailed comparative table, as in the report for the year, 1867; but for the ordinary reader the general comparison will be sufficient, whilst any particular items desired can be easily obtained from the Statistics:—

Crops.	1868.	1869.	Increase in 1869.	Decrease in 1869.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Wheat — For grain	3,425 0 19	2,660 2 5	—	764 2 14
Wheat — For hay	358 1 0	423 2 20	65 1 20	—
Maize — For grain	12,339 0 27	15,756 1 34	3,417 1 7	—
Maize — For green food for cattle	324 2 23	358 0 0	33 1 17	—
Barley — For grain	172 0 20	228 3 0	56 2 20	—
Barley — For hay	54 2 7	63 2 0	8 3 33	—
Barley — For green food for cattle	134 0 20	119 1 20	—	4 3 0
Oats — For grain	95 1 0	119 1 0	24 0 0	—
Oats — For hay	1,027 1 0	1,017 3 0	—	9 2 0
Oats — For green food for cattle	141 0 5	218 2 32	77 2 27	—
Rye, millet, sorghum, &c., &c.	100 1 14	149 3 23	49 2 9	—
Potatoes	2,027 0 37	1,814 0 14	—	213 0 23
Cotton	11,453 3 0	14,426 3 39	2,973 0 29	—
Sugar-cane	3,396 2 36	5,165 0 0	1,768 1 4	—
Arrowroot	30 0 10	46 1 11	16 1 1	—
Tobacco	24 1 1	22 2 0	--	1 3 1
Sown Grasses — For hay	900 2 0	740 0 20	—	160 1 20
Sown Grasses — For green food for cattle	679 1 0	683 1 30	4 0 30	—
Vines — For wine making	88 0 24	133 3 30	45 3 6	—
Vines — For table use	196 0 19	145 1 28	—	50 2 31
Vines — Unproductive	49 3 2	44 0 30	—	5 2 12
Bananas	331 0 10	334 0 39	3 0 29	—
Pine-apples	135 0 8	195 1 3	60 0 35	—
Other crops	277 3 23	597 2 0	319 2 17	—
Garden and orchard	1,569 1 31	1,569 3 24	0 1 33	—
Total extent of land under crop	39,321 0 16	47,034 2 32		
TOTAL			8,923 3 07	1,210 1 21
Deduct Decrease			1,210 1 21	
Net Increase			7,713 2 16	

Taking these returns, however, for what they are worth (and even as an approximation the value is not inconsiderable), it appears that the total extent of land under crop in the Colony has increased from 39,321 acres in 1868 to 47,034 in 1869, or by nearly 20 per cent.

The following table shows the increase and decrease of areas under cultivation in the various districts:—

Police District.	TOTAL AREA UNDER CROP. 1868.	TOTAL AREA UNDER CROP. 1869.	Increase in 1869.	Decrease in 1869.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Banana	9 3 0	13 1 0	3 2 0	—
Bowen	75 3 0	268 2 0	192 3 0	—
Brisban — Brisbane	3,686 0 37	3,728 1 8	42 0 11	—
Brisban — Caboolture	488 0 0	722 0 0	234 0 0	—
Brisban — Cleveland	1,026 2 18	1,467 2 4	440 3 26	—
Brisban — Logan	3,542 1 17	4,545 0 10	1,002 2 23	—
Brisban — Sandgate	900 2 23	1,561 0 20	660 1 37	—
Brisban — Woogaroo	3,209 1 1	3,146 2 5	—	62 2 36
Cape River	—	7 1 2	7 1 2	—
Cardwell	109 1 2	121 0 0	11 2 38	—
Clermont	5 2 0	2 3 0	—	2 3 0
Condamine	17 2 0	13 1 0	—	4 1 0
Dalby	171 3 3	249 2 10	77 3 7	—

QUEENSLAND.

Police District.	TOTAL AREA UNDER CROP. 1868.	TOTAL AREA UNDER CROP. 1869.	Increase in 1869.	Decrease in 1869.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Drayton and Toowoomba	4,722 0 5	4,519 0 18	—	202 3 17
Gayndah	143 0 32	129 2 4	—	13 2 28
Gladstone	79 0 30	100 0 30	21 0 0	—
Goondiwindi	33 0 30	22 1 0	—	10 3 30
Gympie	—	150 3 5	150 3 5	—
Ipswich	10,249 1 32	14,808 1 36	4,559 0 4	—
Leyburn	114 2 10	91 1 23	—	23 0 27
Mackay	818 3 0	1,343 1 0	524 2 0	—
Maryborough	2,350 3 4	3,034 2 30	683 3 26	—
Mitchell	—	2 0 0	2 0 0	—
Nanango	50 1 0	69 3 0	19 2 0	—
Nebo	0 2 0	—	—	0 2 0
Rockhampton	252 3 1	262 1 1	9 2 0	—
Roma	4 1 0	55 2 0	51 1 0	—
Springsure	20 0 0	6 1 0	—	13 0 0
St. George	9 2 1	25 3 0	16 0 39	—
St. Lawrence	4 3 0	16 1 0	11 2 0	—
Surat	16 3 6	13 3 0	—	3 0 6
Taroom	22 1 4	13 3 0	—	8 2 4
Townsville	179 3 0	200 0 0	20 1 0	—
Warwick	7,006 2 0	6,323 2 26	—	682 3 14
Total	39,321 0 16	47,034 2 32	8,742 2 18	1,029 0 2
Deduct decrease	—	—	1,029 0 2	
Net increase	—	—	7,713 2 16	

The most noticeable increase is in the Ipswich district, where it amounts to over 44 per cent. on the area returned as under crop in 1868. In the extensive tract of country forming the Brisbane district the increase is barely 18 per cent. But the increase in these two districts amounts to nearly nine-tenths of the absolute increase of cultivation throughout the Colony.

In the districts of Drayton and Toowoomba, and of Warwick, usually looked upon as so suitable for agricultural pursuits, there is an absolute falling off in the total area returned as under crop.

The cultivation of wheat for grain in this Colony, being practically confined to these districts, special returns of the wheat crop were collected from them; the results of these will be found noted below.

Although collected at the same time as the general returns for these districts, there is a discrepancy between the total results, which, though small, ought not to have occurred, and of which a satisfactory explanation is not forthcoming.

The returns give a total of 2,640 acres in 1869, as against 3,374 acres in 1868, showing a decrease of 733 acres, or over 21 per cent.

The details, as per annexed statement, may be useful:—

	Total Area sown with Wheat Grain.	TOTALLY UNPRODUCTIVE. Area.	TOTALLY UNPRODUCTIVE. Centesimal Proportion to the Total Area.	AFFECTED WITH RUST, BUT YIELDING CROP. Area.	AFFECTED WITH RUST, BUT YIELDING CROP. Centesimal Proportion to the Total Area.	AFFECTED WITH RUST, BUT YIELDING CROP. Produce.	AFFECTED WITH RUST, BUT YIELDING CROP. Average Produce per acre.	FREE FROM RUST. Area.	FREE FROM RUST. Centesimal Proportion to the Total Area.	FREE FROM RUST. Produce.	FREE FROM RUST. Average Produce per acre.	TOTAL. Total Area sown.	TOTAL. Total produce.	TOTAL. Average Produce to Total Area sown.
	Acres.	Acres.		Acres.		Bhls.	Bhls.	Acres.		Bhls.	Bhls.	Acres.	Bhls.	Bhls.
Drayton and Toowoomba	838	224	26·73	371	44·27	3,154	8½	243	29·00	4,730	19½	838	7,884	9·4
Warwick	1,802	148	8·21	249	13·82	2,184	8¾	1,405	77·97	27,630	19½	1,802	29,814	16·5
Total	2,640	372	14·09	620	23·48	5,338	8⅝	1,648	62·42	32,360	19½	2,640	37,698	14¼

Assuming these figures to be correct, the discrepancy between the results of the two districts is noteworthy. Whether owing to differences in the quality of seed, or the

nature of the soil, or the process of cultivation, it is at least remarkable that, in the Drayton and Toowoomba district, only 29 per cent. of the crop was free from rust, whilst in the Warwick there was nearly 80 per cent. clean.

The average produce from the clean crop is the same in both districts—19½ bushels to the acre—a return which compares very favourably with the published returns of yield in South Australia. The average annual yield in that Colony from 1858 to 1869 varied from 8 bushels 44 pounds to 14 bushels 20 pounds per acre; the mean average for 11 years being under 11 bushels per acre, whilst the highest average—*i. e.* for the year 1866–7—was 14 bushels 20 pounds—almost identical with the average of our present returns from the whole crop, clean as well as rusty.

In maize for grain there is a total increase of 3,417a. 1r. 7p., or at the rate of a little over 27 per cent. Of this increase 1,233 acres belong to the Ipswich district; 726 acres to the Brisbane district; 548 acres to the Drayton and Toowoomba district; 431 acres to Warwick; 240 acres to Maryborough; 50 acres to Mackay; nearly 70 acres to Bowen; and 30 acres to Dalby.

The amount of maize for green food shows a slight increase; but it is a comparatively unimportant crop.

Barley and oats give a slight increase; potatoes a slight falling off.

In cotton there is a steady increase, the area under crop having risen to 14,426 acres, or over 30 per cent. of the land under cultivation throughout the Colony.

In this production the Ipswich district again takes the lead with 10,650 acres, as against 7,957 in 1868; the Brisbane district, next in quantity, only returning 3,197 acres, as against 2,246.

The steady increase of this staple from year to year is highly encouraging, and its value to the Colony is enhanced by the fact that it is now established as one of the standard crops of the small farmer.

Sugar-cane is another crop rapidly advancing in importance, both as to the number of persons for whom it finds employment, and the high value of results obtained from it. The total area is returned at 5,165 acres, against 3,396 in 1868, an increase of over 50 per cent. Details will be found in annexed table:—

Police District.		1868.	1869.	Increase in 1869.	Decrease in 1869.
		A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Bowen		—	45 0 0	45 0 0	—
Brisbane		186 1 36	26 0 0	—	160 1 36
Sub-Districts	Caboolture	391 0 0	585 0 0	194 0 0	—
	Cleveland	447 1 28	529 0 0	81 2 12	—
	Logan	810 1 0	1,342 0 0	531 3 0	—
	Sandgate	20 2 7	—	—	20 2 7
	Woogaroo	122 1 1	193 0 0	70 2 39	—
Cardwell		93 0 0	90 0 0	—	3 0 0
Ipswich		51 0 4	165 0 0	113 3 36	—
Mackay		414 2 0	919 0 0	504 2 0	—
Maryborough		807 2 0	1,261 0 0	453 2 0	—
Rockhampton		0 2 0	—	—	0 2 0
Townsville		50 0 0	10 0 0	—	40 0 0
Warwick		2 1 0	—	—	2 1 0
Total		3,396 2 36	5,165 0 0	1,995 0 7	226 3 3
Deduct decrease		—	—	226 3 3	—
Net increase		—	—	1,768 1 4	—

A large proportion of the total area is found in the Brisbane district, which now returns 2,675 acres. Ipswich does not appear so well suited for sugar as for other things, but returns 165 acres as against 51 previously. But there are symptoms of the cultivation spreading in the hotter climate to the north: Bowen, for the first time, returns 45 acres; Cardwell, stationary, at 90; Mackay, 919, against 414; and Maryborough, 1,261, against 807.

As the cultivation of sugar-cane involves the necessity of providing means for crushing and subsequent processes of manufacture, the increase in the present returns is proof of very satisfactory progress.

Much, no doubt, has yet to be learnt as to both the cultivation of the cane and the most economical modes of dealing with it; and it must be remembered that the full results of the area now under crop will not, even under favourable circumstances, be realized for a considerable time yet to come.

QUEENSLAND.

All the sugar at present produced is consumed within the Colony. The quantity manufactured both of sugar and rum is returned in Table CIX.

With regard to vines the increase is not nearly so large as might be anticipated, and the time has not yet arrived when Queensland wine is to be deemed a staple production.

THE MINERAL PRODUCTIONS

Are important, and it is hoped will yet prove more so to the Colony. Foremost in this class is

GOLD.

As already observed, the gold-seeking population has decreased.

By reference to Table No. CVIII., it appears that the machines employed are much the same in number and power as in the preceding year.

The amount of gold sent down by escort is slightly increased—viz. in value, 451,352*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, as against 429,907*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*; whilst the total exported shows a decrease, 523,041*l.*, as against 593,516*l.*

It seems that the alluvial seeking for gold has decreased, whilst the slower and more solid working of quartz reefs has been to a greater extent developed.

The amount of gold disseminated over the country appears to be large but scattered, and not to be obtained without considerable labour.

COPPER, &c.

There appear to be very valuable deposits of copper ore in various parts of the Colony, but the returns of quantity raised are meagre. Clermont may be taken as the head-quarters of the most successful present operations, which promise to afford good employment for some time to come for a considerable population.

It is unfortunate that, owing to an oversight, a large amount of smelted copper has been set down in the Customs export returns as ore, and this mistake has been copied in the statistical view. The entire amount there stated at a value of 87,268*l.* may be taken as smelted copper.

With regard to mines and quarries generally, Table No. CXIV. gives all the information returned; it is but small, and the returns of previous years do not afford means of comparison of any value.

It is generally understood that the mineral wealth of the Colony is enormous, but has yet to be developed—a task for which time, capital, and population are all required.

COAL.

It is supposed that the wealth of the Colony, in this substance, is very great, and diffused over large areas.

At present the amount raised is comparatively small, but (although in one or two places it affords employment to a considerable number of hands) the quantity raised is not reported, and as its consumption is almost confined to the Colony, the Export Returns do not supply information on the subject.

Interchange.

POSTAL COMMUNICATION.

During 1869 the number of Post Offices in the Colony was increased from 93 to 107, and 1,305 miles added to the postal lines, the direct extent over which mails were carried under contracts being 9,843 miles. Notwithstanding this increased facility of communication, the number of letters returned as passing through the post has considerably diminished, being only 1,704,370 in 1869 against 2,158,581 in 1868, or a falling off of 454,211. It is difficult to account for this large falling off, of which 87 per cent. belongs to the town and inland business.

In contrast to this, the Money Order Department shows an increased business. The number of Money Order Offices has been increased from 23 to 38, and the number of orders issued is 1,138 in excess of the number issued in 1868, with an increase in amount remitted of 4,245*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* The principal increase has been within the Colony itself.

The increase in the number of orders paid was 1,390, and in the amount, 4,399*l.* 14*s.* The Chief increase in this case also was within the Colony. The transactions with Great Britain and the other colonies, excepting New South Wales and Victoria, exhibit a decrease.

The revenue from all sources has slightly increased, viz. 116*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, whilst the expenditure shows a reduction of 584*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* on that of 1868, without regarding that in the expenditure for 1869 was included 802*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* paid on account of previous years.

Electric Telegraphs.

On the 31st. December, 1869, there were 41 Telegraph stations open in the Colony, and 2,182 miles of line; six additional stations and 371 miles of line having been opened during the year.

The number of messages transmitted was 70,112, of which 49,883 were paid telegrams, and 20,229 on the Government service. The cash receipts amounted to 11,635*l.* as against a total expenditure for the year of 14,668*l*, leaving an apparent loss of 3,033*l.*; but Government telegrams to the value of 6,776*l.* were sent unpaid for, so that the working may fairly claim a profit of 3,743*l.*

Railways.

The Warwick extension, having been completed as far as Allora during the year, has added 46 additional miles to our railway system.

The number of passengers conveyed was 26,178 as against 24,615 in 1868, or an increase of 1,563. The receipts have risen from 59,330*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*, in 1868, to 79,783*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*—an increase of 20,453*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, or upwards of 34 per cent.

The goods traffic yielded nearly 97 per cent., or 19,792*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*; of this increase the quantity of goods carried being 3,967 tons in excess of the quantity carried in 1868.

The expenditure was 65,620*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* compared with 53,845*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*, or an increase of 22 per cent.

The number of miles run was 252,489, or 4,291 less than in the previous year.

Shipping.

The total number of vessels entered inwards during 1869 was 548, of an aggregate tonnage of 145,213, being an increase of 37 vessels, and of 12,270 tonnage on the previous year.

From Great Britain 27 vessels of 14,929 tons arrived, an increase of three vessels and 127 tons over the arrivals in 1868. By far, however, the greater bulk of the shipping enters from New South Wales, the returns showing an increase of 46 vessels, and of 11,354 tonnage from that Colony.

The arrivals from South Australia also show a noteworthy increase, being 41 vessels of 9,516 tons, as against 24 vessels of 4,865 tons in the previous year; and there was also a slight increase in the arrivals from New Caledonia.

On the other hand, the arrivals from Victoria decreased from 30 vessels of 5,555 tons in 1868, to eight vessels of 1,053 tons; the Tasmanian arrivals, from 20 vessels of 2,863 tons, to 12 vessels of 1,758 tons. From the South Sea Islands the decrease has been five vessels, and of tonnage, 491.

Twenty-one vessels arrived in ballast, of which number five were from New Zealand and seven from New Caledonia, under charter, to convey live stock from the Colony.

527 vessels of 142,802 tons, and crews of 11,196, cleared from the several ports during the year. Compared with 478 vessels of 127,871 tons, and crews 9,970 in 1868, the increase in the departures to Great Britain was six vessels, and of tonnage, 2,835; to New South Wales, of 31 vessels, and of tonnage, 9,739; to New Zealand, of eight vessels, and of tonnage, 2,572.

The departures to Tasmania, South Australia, and New Caledonia, also show an increase, whilst those to Victoria and the South Sea Islands exhibit a decrease.

The average tonnage of vessels arriving from Great Britain in 1865—when immigration was at its height—was 897·6; in 1866, 909·7; in 1867, 917·3; in 1868, 616·8; and in 1869, 552·9.

The number of sea-going steamers for which certificates were registered by the Marine Board was less by one, whilst those suited for internal navigation had an addition of two.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The imports seaward during 1869 amounted to 1,731,310*l.*, and the value of sheep introduced into the Colony overland (principally for stud purposes), being estimated at 73,268*l.*, gives a total value of 1,804,578*l.*

The exports seaward were valued at 2,111,142*l.*, and the sheep, cattle, and horses passed across the border to the southern markets, at 55,664*l.*, making the total amount of our export trade 2,166,806*l.*

The import and export trade combined amounted to 3,971,384*l.*, as against 4,006,556*l.* in 1868, or a decrease of 35,172*l.*

The import and export trade with the United Kingdom amounted to 1,056,290*l.*, showing an increase on the previous year of 119,355*l.* The increase in the imports was 241,38*l.*, and in the exports 95,217*l.*, or nearly 18 per cent.

The total value of our importations therefrom was 455,796*l.*, and of our exports thereto 600,494*l.*, showing a balance of trade in favour of the Colony of 144,698*l.*

The trade with the Australian Colonies declined considerably, the amount of imports and exports combined being 2,777,463*l.*, compared with 3,023,056*l.* in 1868—a falling off of 245,593*l.* The imports amounting to 1,274,702*l.*, as against 1,443,562*l.*—a decrease of 168,860*l.* The exports amounting to 1,502,761*l.*, against 1,579,494*l.* in 1868, or a decrease of 76,733*l.*; but still leaving a balance of trade in favour of the Colony of 228,059*l.*

IMPORTS.

The total value of the imports seaward amounted to 1,731,310*l.*, as against 1,899,119*l.* in 1868, being a decrease of 167,809*l.*

The importation was at the rate of 15*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* for every individual of the estimated mean population.

The quantity of beer imported decreased from 588,162 gallons in 1868 to 395,936 gallons in 1869; and the value, from 97,191*l.* in 1868 to 69,090*l.* It might, therefore, be presumed that the home-made article had superseded the imported; but it will be seen that only 30,057 gallons were made in the Colony, which still leaves a decreased consumption of 162,169 gallons.

The import of brandy was less by 22,016 gallons, and spirits of all kinds by 41,385 gallons.

Wine also shows a decrease, the quantity being 4,358 gallons less than in 1868.

The quantity of butter imported was 382,871 lbs., compared with 479,336 lbs. in 1868—a decrease of 96,465 lbs.

Flour shows an increase of 3,970 tons, but a diminution in value to the amount of 18,110*l.*

The quantity of sugar imported was 3,010 tons, which was 267 tons less than the import in 1868, and 196 tons less than we imported in 1865, when our population was more than twenty thousand persons under the estimate for 1869; and as we did not export any during the year, it may safely be assumed that our own sugar is taking the place of the foreign article.

Tea shows a decline of 15,820 lbs., attributable, no doubt, to a desire on the part of importers to reduce stocks, rather than to a decreased consumption; for it will be seen that the quantity taken out of bond exceeded the release in 1868.

Leather, manufactured and unmanufactured, to the amount of 78,265*l.*, was imported, as against 91,739*l.* in 1868—a diminution in value of 13,474*l.* The principal decline was in boots and shoes, &c.; the value, 67,501*l.*, compared with the import in 1868, viz. 79,227*l.*, leaving a falling off of 11,726*l.*

The import of fresh fruit and vegetables of all kinds has somewhat increased—the former to the value of 296*l.*, and the latter to the value of 119*l.* One would think that the 32,000*l.*, which we annually send elsewhere for these products, should be a temptation to our local producers. Our farmers appear to be successful in a contrary direction, having reduced the import of maize by 46,839 bushels.

Machinery for the manufacture of sugar figures for the sum of 19,030*l.*, as against 9,268*l.* in the previous year—an increase of 9,762*l.*; while machinery of all kinds amounted in value to 44,634*l.* compared with 44,334*l.*—an increase of 300*l.*

It may here be of interest to note the value of machinery imported since 1866 for the

purposes of sugar making, it having been first specifically described under its proper heading in that year:—

	£
1866	78
1867	755,3
1868	9,268
1869	19,030

Iron wire figures for 27,045*l.*—an increase of 5,199*l.*

This appears to be coming largely into use for fencing purposes.

Exports.

The total value of the exports seaward was 2,111,142*l.* Compared with the exports for 1868—viz. 2,107,437*l.*—they show a slight increase of 3,705*l.*

The rate of exportation per head of the estimated mean population was 19*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*

Having already dealt with the exports of pastoral and mineral produce, under the head of Production, it is not necessary here to recapitulate them. But it is worthy of remark that, while the quantity of wool exported increased by 3,479,872 lbs., the increase in value was only 40,938*l.*, showing how seriously this branch of our trade is affected by the low prices ruling.

Next in order, the exports of agricultural and indigenous products come under review, and, turning first to cotton, it will be seen that there was a large falling off compared with the export of the preceding year, the total quantity shipped being 1,118,899 lbs., valued at 51,217*l.*, against 1,809,628 lbs., of the value of 68,929*l.*—or a decrease of 690,729 lbs., and in value of 17,712*l.*

Rum.—31,508 gallons of this spirit were exported, valued at 4,966*l.*, as against 2,072 gallons in 1868, valued at 380*l.*; and it may be anticipated that the shipments of this article will increase when it has had sufficient time to mature and develop its quality.

Molasses figures for the small amount of 40*l.*

The export of fruit (green), principally bananas and pine-apples, shows a falling off of 2,198*l.*, being 5,247*l.* against 7,445*l.*

Potatoes to the value of 131*l.* were exported, being an increase of 112*l.*

Arrowroot appears not only to have recovered the depression it experienced in the years 1866 and 1867, but to be making a market for itself. The quantity exported, as will be seen from the following table shows an access of 7,270 lbs. over 1868, and 21,036 lbs. over the export in 1867:—

Quantity and Value of Arrowroot Exported from 1860 to 1869.

Year.	Quantity.	Value.			Year.	Quantity.	Value.		
		£	*s.*	*d.*			£	*s.*	*d.*
1860	3 packages	5	0	0	1865	12,141 lbs.	333	0	0
1861	12 „	62	0	0	1866	558 „	21	0	0
1862	55 „	362	0	0	1867	5,332 „	130	0	0
1863	6,429 lbs.	251	0	0	1868	19,098 „	407	0	0
1864	5,343 „	190	0	0	1869	26,368 „	548	0	0

The timber trade showed signs of decided improvement, the value of the total quantity of all kinds shipped being 30,241*l.* compared with 16,578*l.*

A trade in bark would appear to be springing up, 197 tons, valued at 1,006*l.*, having been exported during the year, as against 10 tons, valued at 52*l.*, in 1868; while our first shipment took place in the year 1860, and amounted to two packages, valued at 1*l.*

The total value of exports, the produce of the Colony, amounted to 2,079,115*l.*—an increase of 8,918 over 1868.

Banking.

Joint Stock Banks.

This appears to be the appropriate place for banking statistics, although, for other reasons, the tables have been placed much earlier in the statistics.

QUEENSLAND.

In the first quarter of 1869, the notes and bills in active circulation amounted to 174,397*l.*, and fell to 161,282*l.* in the last. The deposits in the first quarter amounted to 1,010,213*l.*, and in the last to 961,612*l.*—a decrease of 48,601*l.*—and comparing the last quarter with that of the previous year, it appears that the public has withdrawn 56,954*l.* from the custody of banks during 1869.

The total liabilities of all the Joint Stock Banks amounted, on the 31st December, to 1,138,639*l.* against 1,214,586*l.* in 1868.

The coin and bullion held in the first quarter is returned at 325,812*l.*, and in the last at 302,613*l.*

It is evident from the amount of accommodation afforded—the advances having increased from 1,551,164*l.* in the early part of the year, to 1,576,747*l.*, in the latter—that the demand on the part of the public for money to carry on and develop trade has afforded an opportunity for the profitable employment of capital, which has resulted, as in former years, in the declaring of dividends to the shareholders of from 8 to 17 per cent.

The total assets on the 31st December amounted to 2,002,822*l.*

The rates of discount on local bills were the same as those of the preceding year, averaging from 7 per cent. for bills at short dates, to 10 per cent. for paper which had above 125 days to run.

The rate of exchange shows but a very slight variation, and remained favourable to the Colony.

Government Savings Bank.

The number of offices open for the receipt and payment of Savings Bank moneys, on the 31st December, was 40, being an increase of two.

The amount of money lodged during the year amounted to 241,774*l.* 14*s.* against 210,148*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* in 1868—an increase of 31,625*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.* 174,002*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* was withdrawn, against 120,369*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* in 1868, or an increase of 53,632*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* The transactions of the year, however, closed with an increase of 1,051 accounts, and the sum of 79,860*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* over the previous year, and leaving 300,522*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.* to the credit of 5,327 accounts.

The facility offered to depositors by the bank, in allowing them to withdraw their savings by sending notice through the telegraph of their wish so to do, appears each year to be more fully availed of, 911 operations of this nature having been conducted in 1869, against 510 in 1868.

Revenue.

The total revenue, including land orders received in payment of land purchased from the Crown, amounted to the sum of 772,858*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, and was less by 7,258*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* than the receipts of the previous year, while the absolute cash receipts amounted to 738,218*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*, or an increase of 13,364*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.* over those of 1868.

The customs receipts fell from 333,636*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* in 1868, to 308,719*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*—a decrease of 24,917*l.* 1*s.*; the items in which it occurred are shown in the subjoined comparative table.

Comparative Table of the Customs Receipts in the Years 1868 and 1869.

	1868.	1869.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Spirits	121,816 0 0	111,712 9 4	—	10,103 10 8
Wine	17,489 5 7	15,734 7 2	—	1,754 18 5
Ale, Porter, and Beer of all sorts	13,191 13 0	10,906 7 0	—	2,285 6 0
Cider and Perry	4 11 0	0 6 0	—	4 5 0
Vinegar	923 8 3	643 13 11	—	279 14 4
Tobacco and Cigars	42,301 9 0	41,189 6 5	—	1,112 2 7
Opium	3,598 10 3	3,359 17 4	—	238 12 11
Tea	25,771 16 0	25,988 4 9	216 8 9	—
Coffee and Chicory	3,081 19 11	2,793 17 2	—	288 2 9
Chocolate and Cocoa	240 0 10	424 8 0	184 7 2	—
Sugar and Molasses	17,431 17 8	14,083 9 1	—	3,348 8 7
Dried Fruits	3,374 6 2	3,191 8 5	—	182 17 9
Rice	1,294 4 6	1,149 11 8	—	144 12 10
Salt	5,193 19 3	4,221 5 3	—	972 14 0
Ad valorem	77,923 7 3	73,320 16 2	—	4,602 11 1
Total	333,636 8 8	308,719 7 8	400 15 11	25,317 16 11
Deduct Increase	—	—	—	400 15 11
Net Decrease	—	—	—	24,917 1 0

The rateable proportion which each year's customs receipts bear to the mean population, will be seen from the appended table.

Year.	Mean Population of the Year.	Customs Receipts.	Average per Head of the mean Population.	Acts of the Queensland Parliament, imposing additional Customs Duties.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1860 - -	27,017	52,210 3 7	2 3 9¾	
1861 -	31,886	71,678 18 11	2 5 7	
1862 - -	40,593	96,107 11 8	2 7 4¼	
1863 -	53,970	125,199 6 11	2 6 4¾	
1864 - -	67,181	153,341 19 6	2 5 7⅝	28 Vic., No. 16: Export Tax on Gold.
1865 -	80,905	195,540 15 1	2 8 4·06	29 Vic., No. 2: Increased Import Duties on Wines and Spirits.
1866 - -	91,973	223,384 13 11	2 8 6·75	30 Vic., Nos. 9 and 15.: *ad valorem* and other Import Duties.
1867 -	98,025	283,366 10 11	2 17 9¾	
1868 - -	103,638	333,636 8 8	3 4 4½	
1869 -	108,662	308,719 7 8	2 16 9¾	

The revenue derivable from the export of gold, miners' rights, and auriferous leases, &c., declined 7,119*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*

The total receipts under the general head of land revenue, viz. land sales, rents of agricultural land, and of land leased for pastoral purposes, assessment on runs, and survey fees, show a falling off of 3,347*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, while in the receipts for land rented for pastoral purposes solely, there is a diminution to the amount of 12,235*l.* 7*s.*, which is to some extent compensated by the increased receipts for land conditionally purchased, homestead selections, and rents under "The Leasing Act of 1866."

On the other hand, almost every other branch of revenue shows an increase, the most marked being in the excise, in rents derived from tolls, ferries, wharves, &c., and in the railway receipts.

The various sources of revenue of the two years 1868 and 1869 are compared in the following table, and the increase or decrease under each head shown.

Source of Revenue.	1868.	1869.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs - - - -	333,636 8 8	308,719 7 8	—	24,917 1 0
Excise - - - -	3,591 12 8	7,099 3 10	3,507 11 2	—
Stamp Duty - - -	23,703 10 9	24,639 6 10	935 16 1	—
Gold Revenue - - -	25,588 2 2	18,469 0 5	—	7,119 1 9
Land Revenue - - -	250,002 17 11	246,655 3 8	—	3,347 14 3
Postage - - - -	20,739 3 4	20,834 7 4	95 4 0	—
Commission on Post Office Orders -	750 1 0	799 19 6	49 18 6	—
Licences - - - -	25,842 2 6	25,857 4 0	15 1 6	—
Fees of Office - - -	7,908 2 10	8,391 10 9	483 7 11	—
Fines and Forfeitures - -	2,334 13 1	1,918 19 6	—	415 13 7
Rent (exclusive of land) - -	546 3 5	1,830 2 4	1,283 18 11	—
Harbour Dues and Fees - -	5,071 7 0	5,621 0 3	549 13 3	—
Railway Receipts - - -	59,022 10 11	80,748 4 4	21,725 13 5	—
Civil Service Superannuation Fund	2,328 2 8	2,304 8 2	—	23 14 6
Electric Telegraph Receipts -	11,191 13 6	11,673 13 1	481 19 7	—
Miscellaneous Receipts - -	7,860 13 11	7,296 17 1	—	563 16 10
Total - - -	780,117 6 4	772,858 8 9	29,128 4 4	36,387 1 11
Deduct Decrease - -	—	—	—	29,128 4 4
Net Increase - -	—	—	—	7,258 17 7

Expenditure.

It will be seen that up to the 31st December, 709,670*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* had been expended, as well as a further sum in excess of the vote of the Legislature of 22,761*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* on account of the service of the year, and also 51,924*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* on account of 1868, making a total expenditure within the year of 784,356*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, which exceeds the receipts by the sum of 46,138*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*

EXPENDITURE ON LOAN ACCOUNT.

It appears that the disbursements under this head amounted to 117,077*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* during the year.

QUEENSLAND.

Public Debt.

The capital debt amounted on the 31st December, 1869, to the sum of 3,459,750*l.*, and the annual interest payable thereon to 225,125*l.*

To meet the 6 per cent. debentures issued under the Act 25 Victoria, No. 3, amounting to 123,800*l.*, and due in 1882, a sinking fund is provided of 2 per cent. on the consolidated revenue, and to the credit of which fund appears, as on the 31st December, 1869, the sum of 59,261*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*

The Treasury Bills authorized by the Act 30 Victoria, No. 10, amounting to 300,00*l.*, and bearing interest at the rate of 10*l.* per centum per annum, falling due on the 31st December, 1869, were provided for by the Act 33 Victoria, No. 7, which authorized the issue of Treasury Bills to the amount of 350,000*l.* at 6*l.* per centum per annum, for the purpose of redeeming them; but the issue of Bills under the last-mentioned Act does not come within the financial operations of 1869.

Social Statistics.

EDUCATION.

The return of primary schools comes first in importance as well as position.

The number of schools increased during the year from 73 to 89, or nearly 20 per cent.

The Government expenditure for salaries and rent was 11,987*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* as against 10,007*l.* 12*s.* in 1868—an increase of 1,979*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*, or slightly under 20 per cent.

The salaries above alluded to were supplemented by 4,141*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* school fees paid by the relatives of the scholars.

The total number of scholars on the rolls improved from 9,751 in 1868 to 11,087 in 1869, an increase of nearly 24 per cent.; and the average daily attendance from 4,819 to 5,736, or 18·6 per cent.; the proportionate attendance, as against numbers enrolled, having also improved from 49·4 to 51·7.

The return of private schools exhibits, on the whole, a falling off.

The number of schools has increased from 94 to 101, whilst the aggregate number of scholars has decreased from 2,877 to 2,248.

There does not appear to have been included in the Register for any previous year, a return of the grammar schools, which is now supplied.

Of these there are as yet only two in the Colony, viz. at Ipswich and Brisbane.

Putting out of consideration the expenses incurred in former years, these schools have cost, in the year 1869, to the Government, 1,625*l.*, out of a total expenditure of 3,844*l.* 19*s.*, and providing for the education of 137 pupils at an average cost of 28*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* per head, of which the Government contributed slightly over 42 per cent.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND READING ROOMS.

These institutions do not appear to flourish to the extent that their possible value would render desirable.

ORPHAN SCHOOLS, &c.

There are certain institutions as much charitable as educational, calculated at once to relieve distress and prevent criminal ignorance, and which, though devoted to different objects, may well be classed together, viz. orphan asylums, industrial schools, and reformatory institutions.

In this Colony, at present, we have but two representatives of this class These are both orphan asylums. But it cannot be overlooked that we have in our more important towns a class of children growing up, who, under the present system, are sure sooner or later to drift into prison, and to come out with the instincts of crime only the more developed.

Such a class is not confined to our Colony, and wherever it exists is a source of trouble and anxiety. With a view to dealing with these unfortunates, there are provisions now on our statute book for both industrial and reformatory schools, but up to the present time such provisions are a dead letter. Were such schools established, there would be no difficulty in finding plenty of scholars.

It has been suggested, and is worthy of consideration, that practical agriculture would be a valuable industry to be taught, and with the great advantage of giving plenty of open air and exercise, the importance of which to children is undeniable.

Charitable Institutions,

Though availing themselves, as far as possible, of individual charitable donations, are to a material extent supported by grants from the Government funds.

Hospitals have increased in number from 12 to 13.

The total number of cases treated as in-door or resident patients, in a medical or surgical point of view, has been 2,025 in 1869, as against 1,405. The returns of out-door patients are too vague to afford exact returns in 1868. The out-door relief, administered in consequence of poverty, has been extended to 659 cases as against 562.

With regard to the Brisbane Hospital, the burden of out-door relief has been taken from it, and such relief in Brisbane is now administered purely at the expense of, and by a Board nominated by, the Government.

Returns have not been obtained either of the number of cases relieved or of the expense incurred in such relief, and the Report of the Auditor-General for the year 1869 does not appear to give any information on the subject.

The total expenditure of hospitals for the year has amounted to 16,272*l.* 14*s.*, of which 8,460*l.*, or more than one-half, was contributed by the Government; and out of that sum only 600*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* devoted to out-door relief, which is, of course, exclusive of the relief administered by the board above referred to.

There is an establishment, supported by the Government, at Dunwich, for the care and treatment of persons incapacitated by age or permanent infirmity, and unable to support themselves.

The number of its inmates has slightly increased from 79, at the end of 1868, to 85 in 1869.

The amount of expenditure was 1,692*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* for the year 1869.

Public Institutions of Restraint.

There is but one regular asylum for lunatics in the Colony, viz. that at Woogaroo.

The result is satisfactory, as increase is shown in the number of inmates supposed curable, whilst there is a large decrease in the patients deemed incurable, and an absolute decrease in the total number of inmates.

The alterations and improvements, made with a view to increased accommodation and comforts of those under treatment, appear to have borne good fruit.

Lunatic Reception Houses.

These are intended to provide for a class of cases in which temporary restraint and treatment is requird, but for which up to a late period there was no provision other than gaols or the asylum. They have been established for so short a period that returns up to the present date would be of small value; but, in future years, the effect, in relieving the lunatic asylum proper of mere temporary cases, will, no doubt, be manifest.

Lock Hospital.

The return relating to Brisbane, being the first of the kind, hardly calls for comment.

In some of the country hospitals, wards are set apart for a similar purpose, but from these there are no returns.

Gaols.

There are nominally four gaols in the Colony, but of these, two, viz. at Rockhampton and Toowoomba, can hardly be deemed more than houses of detention for short periods.

The two gaols proper are, one at Brisbane, and the other the penal establishment at St. Helena, an island in Moreton Bay.

In the Brisbane gaol, the number of cells, each designed for one inmate only, remains the same as last year, 144, out of which just one-half, or 72, appear to have been occupied at Michaelmas, 1869, as against 70 at a similar period in the preceding year.

At the penal establishment, St. Helena, where the longest sentenced prisoners are kept, and employed chiefly in sugar growing, considerable addition has been made within the year, chiefly in providing means for separate confinement.

QUEENSLAND.

The total number of prisoners returned, shows a reduction from 116 to 87; but it is understood that when the improvements at present in progress are complete, there will be accommodation for 200, for all of whom occupation can be found in the sugar plantation established on the island.

Law, Crime, &c.

Under this head falls the business of the courts—both civil and criminal—and as to

SUPREME AND CIRCUIT COURTS.

As to civil business, Tables XLIV. and XLV. are already so compendious that it is only necessary to refer to similar tables, Nos. XVI. and XVII., in the statistics of 1868, for the benefit of those who may wish to make comparisons.

REGISTRATION.

What may be termed the registration business of the Supreme Court will be found detailed in Tables XLVI. to L., both inclusive.

It must be borne in mind that liens on wool and liens on crops are only good for 12 months, and it is therefore most probable that many of those registered are only continuations of previous securities, whilst the returns of liens released take no account of those which, having been paid off, were allowed simply to lapse.

INSOLVENCIES.

There were 79 cases in 1869, as against 94 in 1868.

The amount of liabilities was proportionably much less—140,256*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, as against 225,354*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*

The amount of assets proportionably larger—91,730*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* against 107,553*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*

But it does not speak well for our present system, that only 5,345*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*, or 5·8 per cent. of the stated assets, was paid in the shape of dividends.

INTESTATE ESTATES.

Of these there appear to have been 170, with an aggregate amount of 6,129*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*, against 126, with 4,307*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*, in 1868. The property dealt with is confined to personal estate.

It would be a decided improvement if the real estate of intestates were administered in some manner similar to that applied to personalty.

CRIME.

In the return of the Supreme Court business, No. LIV., a distinction is not drawn between felonies and misdemeanours.

The totals exhibit an increase upon those of 1868: 38 convictions and 22 acquittals, against 22 convictions and 9 acquittals.

The number of criminals executed capitally was four againt two, but of the four there were three hung for the same crime, the murder of Halligan.

DISTRICT COURTS.

From a comparison of Tables Nos. LVI. and LVII., with Tables Nos. XXVII. and XXVIII., of the Register for 1868, it appears that as to the civil business, whilst the number of cases has decreased from a total of 601 to 487, the amount sued for has fallen from 34,634*l.* 15*s.* to 27,399*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*, and the amount recovered, from 12,360*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* to 7,561*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*

The criminal business does not show much alteration: 127 felonies and 15 misdemeanours, against 113 and 31 respectively in 1868.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

There is only a slight increase in the number of cases dealt with under the criminal jurisdiction.

STATISTICAL VIEW OF QUEENSLAND, SINCE SEPARATION FROM NEW SOUTH WALES.

POPULATION. — MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL PROGRESS. — PRODUCTION.

Year.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Immigration (excess over Emigration).	Population on 31st December.	Education. Schools.	Education. Scholars.	Mechanics' Institutes. Subscribers.	Mechanics' Institutes. Volumes in Library.	Charitable Institutions. Number.	Charitable Institutions. Persons Relieved.	Crown Lands. Quantity Sold.	Crown Lands. Amount Realized.	Crown Lands. Number of Squatting Runs.	Crown Lands. Area Leased.	Land under Crop. Total Number of Acres under Cultivation.	Land under Crop. Under Cotton.	Land under Crop. Under Sugar-cane.	Live Stock. Horses.	Live Stock. Horned Cattle.	Live Stock. Sheep.	Live Stock. Pigs.	Mills, Manufactories, Works, &c.	Mining. Gold. Quantity raised.	Mining. Gold. Value.	Mining. Copper. Quantity raised.	Mining. Copper. Value.	Mining. Coal. Quantity raised.	Mining. Coal. Value.	Year.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Acres.	£	No.	Acres.	No.	Acres.	Acres.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Oz.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	
1860	1,236	278	478	..	28,056	41	1,890	..	..	6	397	23,587	37,978	1,300	41,027,200	3,353	14	..	23,504	432,890	3,166,802	7,147	13	..	..	..	..	12,327	9,244	1860
1861	1,423	320	500	..	34,367	43	2,438	536	4,890	6	491	56,849	94,063	1,727	51,811,200	4,440	395	..	28,983	560,196	4,093,381	7,465	15	..	..	49	1,450	14,212	9,920	1861
1862	1,702	570	797	9,805	45,077	54	3,060	779	4,232	6	648	67,873	106,019	1,926	57,200,000	6,067	392	..	36,532	637,296	4,553,353	7,066	20	..	..	..	..	24,067	19,253	1862
1863	2,221	774	1,275	14,394	61,640	72	5,452	797	5,369	6	1,075	62,948	108,828	2,545	74,286,080	11,262	2,021	..	45,805	880,392	5,672,400	7,351	23	8,000	30,000	1,100	30,000	2,400	1,500	1863
1864	2,883	951	1,446	10,959	74,036	89	6,858	753	6,692	7	1,447	139,814	210,725	2,849	84,729,760	12,006	479	93	40,678	882,073	5,665,334	12,066	34	..	..	2,000	60,000	25,000	15,000	1864
1865	3,532	1,074	1,733	11,969	87,804	101	9,091	1,133	6,807	7	1,626	145,799	224,403	3,236	98,634,880	14,414	477	449	51,091	848,346	6,594,966	14,888	44	..	..	1,333	40,000	30,000	18,750	1865
1866	4,127	1,068	2,362	8,396	96,201	129	10,955	1,216	8,916	12	2,546	113,598	141,325	3,470	106,123,520	24,433	2,884	607	52,311	919,414	7,278,778	13,961	79	21,590	81,111	3,168	95,000	39,316	21,049	1866
1867	4,476	935	1,745	917	99,849	148	11,393	1,072	9,068	14	1,763	41,765	49,837	3,619	171,093,920	31,559	8,149	1,995	53,143	940,354	8,665,757	18,142	90	48,213	170,090	5,140	84,200	17,988	9,566	1867
1868	4,460	863	1,799	4,287	107,427	167	12,628	816	10,044	15	1,840	57,070	61,085	3,969	179,696,950	39,321	11,453	3,396	66,878	968,279	8,921,784	26,185	125	122,112	429,907	7,816	73,020	19,611	11,519	1868
1869	4,654	903	1,761	*423	109,897	192	13,472	1,304	15,964	16	2,548	33,287	32,638	3,560	171,903,692	47,034	14,426	5,165	71,530	994,600	8,646,243	29,466	250	130,944	451,352	6,310	76,230	11,120	5,907	1869

INTERCHANGE.

Year.	Postal. Letters.	Postal. Newspapers.	Postal. Packets.	Postal. Money Orders.	Postal. Amount of Transactions.	Shipping. Inwards. Number.	Shipping. Inwards. Tonnage.	Shipping. Outwards. Number.	Shipping. Outwards. Tonnage.	Exports (seaward) the produce of Queensland. Wool. Quantity.	Wool. Value.	Tallow. Quantity.	Tallow. Value.	Gold. Quantity.	Gold. Value.	Copper. Quantity.	Copper. Value.	Cotton. Quantity.	Cotton. Value.	Live Stock. Number.	Live Stock. Value.	Meat. Fresh and Preserved (value).	Meat. Extract (value).	Timber (Value).	Coal (Value).	Imports. Total Value.	Exports. Total Value.	Railways. Miles open.	Railways. Number of Passengers.	Electric Telegraph. Miles of Wire.	Electric Telegraph. Number of Messages.	Year.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	£	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	Lbs.	£	Tons.	£	Oz.	£	Cwt.	£	Lbs.	£	No.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	No.	No.	No.	No.	
1860	199,168	149,236	2,956	..	..	210	45,736	183	39,503	5,007,167	444,188	640	25,628	4,127	14,576	..	50	..	..	..	510	5,356	..	2,442	646	742,023	523,477	..	..	..	..	1860
1861	395,861	315,692	3,555	..	..	251	57,377	234	51,827	6,994,033	613,074	1,247	48,009	1,077	3,928	360	644	..	4	3,103	1,845	1,198	..	2,629	1,870	967,951	709,599	..	..	169	5,678	1861
1862	1,027,624	610,320	7,758	574	2,238	330	77,312	305	71,981	8,063,612	627,182	1,503	50,979	189	625	5,360	10,332	14,344	1,423	1,320	1,467	510	..	3,066	3,642	1,323,509	793,236	..	..	169	16,833	1862
1863	898,716	776,198	13,878	3,698	15,094	389	104,421	353	98,844	10,669,044	776,776	883	30,716	3,936	14,802	173	296	31,557	3,056	659	1,469	258	..	5,482	4,279	1,713,263	888,381	..	..	221	19,219	1863
1864	870,807	874,118	11,803	6,598	27,736	431	129,687	396	116,702	14,006,789	1,037,663	1,137	32,999	22,037	83,292	29	146	38,730	4,186	274	1,208	229	..	8,039	141	2,267,954	1,247,054	..	..	298	27,246	1864
1865	1,166,241	779,436	17,160	9,841	41,592	497	173,227	488	167,153	12,251,841	885,299	1,940	57,155	25,338	92,938	4,424	18,440	145,820	12,197	2,175	6,404	765	..	8,383	3	2,505,559	1,153,464	21	17,297	1,131	47,697	1865
1866	1,327,365	802,929	31,764	12,158	51,708	569	197,665	556	195,991	14,346,239	987,659	1,300	53,597	22,916	85,561	8,820	33,918	207,272	19,618	9,139	38,948	14,468	2,800	13,625	32	2,467,907	1,366,491	50	38,569	1,565	64,372	1866
1867	1,897,779	1,413,447	46,686	16,050	74,042	477	149,876	459	145,301	21,554,557	1,462,209	2,733	90,293	49,091	189,248	17,920	66,038	412,941	26,631	461,695	221,533	3,298	23,150	17,802	..	1,747,735	2,198,609	136	18,392	1,752	63,412	1867
1868	2,158,581	1,443,742	52,723	19,310	87,375	511	132,943	478	127,871	18,906,778	1,057,211	3,706	122,544	165,801	593,516	21,769	77,136	1,809,628	68,929	494	2,160	7,903	30,165	16,578	25	1,899,119	2,107,437	160	24,615	1,811	67,111	1868
1869	1,704,370	1,087,345	47,008	21,838	96,020	548	145,213	527	142,802	22,386,650	1,098,149	5,240	166,039	138,221	523,045	†24,535	87,268	1,118,899	51,217	2,170	9,902	5,660	30,623	30,241	202	1,804,578	2,166,806	208	26,178	2,182	70,112	1869

ACCUMULATION. — FINANCE.

Year.	Banks. Total Liabilities on 31st Dec.	Banks. Note Circulation.	Banks. Deposits.	Banks. Total Assets on 31st Dec.	Banks. Coin.	Banks. Advances.	Savings Banks. Number of Depositors.	Savings Banks. Balance to Credit on 31st December.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Loans Authorized.	Expenditure on Loan Account.	Land Orders. Issued.	Land Orders. Negotiated.	Year.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	No.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1860	332,173	42,765	286,917	574,661	63,843	490,861	163	7,545	178,589	161,503	..	19,384	..	..	1860
1861	390,238	63,104	322,310	730,917	84,916	618,315	242	12,192	238,238	255,180	123,800	43,826	18,575	13,337	1861
1862	442,245	87,103	341,155	888,879	105,268	751,678	489	20,562	295,286	317,026	..	50,290	90,383	51,144	1862
1863	598,941	107,634	472,765	1,235,961	128,632	1,055,989	655	26,789	295,215	355,791	707,436	48,610	166,471	95,607	1863
1864	928,409	137,799	757,153	1,825,782	178,503	1,571,188	876	30,662	369,425	439,034	1,019,000	401,421	114,718	133,031	1864
1865	1,000,924	181,615	770,912	2,281,461	193,017	2,023,207	1,798	56,516	472,451	459,025	1,170,950	685,246	227,796	192,541	1865
1866	905,668	126,957	750,604	2,225,436	218,656	1,906,579	2,466	86,499	490,269	594,130	300,000	965,346	151,154	151,281	1866
1867	1,025,286	125,272	868,816	2,000,558	307,907	1,586,033	3,130	123,158	610,860	661,795	..	693,428	32,726	58,788	1867
1868	1,214,586	167,568	1,018,566	2,051,227	333,062	1,583,817	4,276	220,662	724,854	742,207	..	207,845	41,086	55,308	1868
1869	1,138,639	152,865	961,612	2,002,822	279,238	1,576,747	5,327	300,522	738,218	761,594	..	117,077	52,541	34,710	1869

THE Colony of Queensland comprises the north-eastern portion of the Continent of Australia—its northern extremity is Cape York, and its southern (on the coast) Point Danger. The one hundred and thirty-eighth degree of longitude is its boundary on the west.

The area of the Colony is six hundred and seventy-eight thousand five hundred square miles, and its sea-board extends two thousand two hundred and fifty miles.

THE following are the principal townships, with their population, according to the Census of 1868:—

Brisbane (the capital)	14,265
Rockhampton	5,226
Ipswich	5,021
Maryborough	2,929
Toowoomba	2,900
Warwick	1,728
Dalby	1,224
Bowen	1,144
Clermont	821
Drayton	807
Gayndah	746

* Excess of departures over arrivals. † 4,360 cwt. of this was smelted copper, valued at £15,657.

HENRY SCOTT,
Registrar-General.

There is a slight increase of cases under 10*l.*, with a decrease in the aggregate amount sued for, and an increase as to cases over 10*l.*, both in the number and the total amounts sued for and recovered respectively. QUEENSLAND.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY SCOTT,
Registrar-General.

VICTORIA.

No. 15.

(No Report received.)

TASMANIA. TASMANIA.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor DU CANE to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

No. 16. No. 16.

(No. 40.)

MY LORD, Government House, Tasmania, September 5, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of the statistics of Tasmania for the year 1869.

2. These returns have been prepared with the usual care by the Government statistician, Mr. E. C. Nowell, and are accompanied by his customary elaborate introductory Report. I have, however, to endorse the complaint he makes respecting the want of punctuality with which in several instances the returns asked for are forwarded by those who are entrusted with the charge of collecting them. The publication of these statistics is thereby delayed to an unreasonable date, and they are thus rendered comparatively valueless for more than one important use for which they might otherwise serve in the Colony itself.

3. Your Lordship will observe that a census of the population was taken on the 7th of February last, the result of which gives the total number of the population at that date as 99,328, of which 52,853 were males, and 46,475 females. This return shows an increase of 9,351, or 10·39 per cent. of the whole population, as compared with the census of 1861—a rate of increase only half as rapid as it was at the date of the previous census, taken on the 7th of April, 1861. It is to be regretted also that these returns show a continuous decrease in the effective male population of the Colony, which it is to be hoped may be redressed by immigration.

4. In connection with this subject, your Lordship will observe that the analysis given by the statistician of the various occupations of the population shows that more than half the entire people are engaged in agriculture, either as farmers or labourers. The class of immigrants most in demand here is undoubtedly that of the able-bodied and industrious farm labourer, who will always command good wages and constant employment.

5. The educational statistics of the Colony show an increase of more than 14 per cent. in the numbers of those who can read and write, as compared with that of the previous census. This progress may be looked on as satisfactory, and the general system of education is undeniably one of a most liberal character in its general scope and intention; but the large proportion of children still returned as receiving no instruction whatever shows that its provisions fail of universal application.

6. The total value of goods imported into the Colony during the year 1869 is returned at 975,412*l.*, being an increase of 130,260*l.* as compared with 1868, which is to be found almost entirely in shipments from the United Kingdom.

7. The exports, on the other hand, exhibit a falling off of 93,888*l.*, being 826,932*l.* in 1869, as against 920,820*l.* in 1868. This decrease, however, is to be found almost entirely under the head of Wool. In my covering Despatch to the Statistics of 1868, I called attention to the fact that one vessel had taken home two cargoes of wool within the year instead of one; and I stated that the apparent large increase in the export trade

TASMANIA.

for that year would most probably thus prove to be owing to an exceptional circumstance. This anticipation seems to be borne out by the export returns for 1869, which, however, exhibit an increase of 36,438*l.* over those for the year 1867, with which they would be more fairly put in comparison. It may therefore, I think, be rightly assumed that the export trade of the Colony shows no signs of further decline, and in some important items, such as barley and hops, there is a very decided increase.

8. The shipping returns present but little variation, as compared with the two previous years. The number of those engaged in the whaling trade has been increased by one vessel, and though there has been a fall in the price of oil, I am happy to say that this important branch of industry, which has so greatly revived during the last two years, exhibits no symptom of decline.

9. The general revenue of the Colony for the year 1869, exclusive of debentures and expenditure under Loan Acts, was 220,245*l.*; that derived from the Land Fund, with similar exclusions, amounted to 59,494*l.* The returns of expenditure exhibit a slight excess over those of the revenue.

10. Your Lordship will observe that the public debt of the Colony amounted, on the 1st December, 1869, to 1,148,000*l.* From the total amount of Debentures issued must, however, be deducted the sum of 300,000*l.* borrowed on account of the Launceston and Western Railway Company. The total debt of the Colony for Government purposes only amounts to 848,000*l.*, or about 120,000*l.* more than it was in 1868. The principal part of this increase is a sum of 100,000*l.* borrowed under an Act passed in 1868 for the commutation of the annual grant of 15,000*l.* hitherto made under the Constitutional Act for the maintenance of public worship.

11. The quantity of gold actually produced in 1869 was very small, but the year itself was marked by the discovery of several quartz reefs in various parts of the Colony, and the formation of Companies for working them. In the Crown Land returns for the year it will be seen that 1,152 miners' rights were issued during the year, and 118 applications for mining leases, and 16 for prospecting claims, were received by the Government. The amount received on these accounts being 2,891*l.* None of these Companies got their machinery to work within the year; and though at the present moment the gold-field prospects are decidedly hopeful, the problem whether mining operations will ever become a permanent branch of Tasmanian industry has, in my opinion, as yet to be solved. I may, perhaps, call your Lordship's attention to the remarks of the statistician as to the manner in which these gold-mining operations have hitherto been conducted, and which are very similar to those I have myself made in treating of the same subject in previous Despatches.

12. The expenditure for penal and charitable establishments exhibits a decrease as compared with the previous year, in the amounts chargeable to both the Imperial and Colonial Governments, being 13,758*l.* and 45,915*l.* in 1869, as against 17,909*l.* and 47,595*l.* in 1868.

13. The returns relating to Agriculture show some slight symptoms of improvement throughout the Colony. There was an increase in the yield of all the principal crops, though prices ranged lower; and there is also a decided increase in the use of steam and other agricultural machinery. On the other hand, the live-stock returns continue to show a decrease in the number of sheep and horned cattle, and a larger importation of live stock from other Colonies, in proportion to the number of the population, than is consistent with a healthy state of the pastoral interest.

14. The criminal statistics show a diminution in the number of persons tried and convicted for serious offences. One criminal was, however, executed during the year.

15. The vital statistics of the Colony do not appear to call for any special remark, and bear testimony as usual to the acknowledged healthiness of the climate.

16. I have only to add that the general summary given by the statistician at the conclusion of his Report of the condition and prospects of the Colony at the close of the year 1869, is, in my opinion, a fair one, and may be taken as representing the actual state of things at the present moment.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES DU CANE.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR, Legislative Council Office, August 8, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to present to you the Statistics of this Colony for the year 1869.

I am sorry to have to report that a very large proportion of the labour and anxiety attaching to my office as Government Statistician is still caused by the failure of some persons to send in their returns with due punctuality and care. For some of these returns, repeated applications have had to be made, and great annoyance has been caused by their absence; and in the case of one Government officer, the assistance of the head of his department had to be invoked in order to obtain the required information.

The mere clerical labour involved in sending out circulars to defaulters three or four times over is very considerable; but the worst feature in the case is, that amid the multiplicity of subjects daily demanding attention, the fact of certain returns not having been received sometimes escapes notice until the information is actually wanted, and the printing is thus delayed.

In the remarks which I may here offer on the different returns, I shall follow, as in previous years, the classification of the volume itself.

I.—*Population.*

Population.

The estimated population on December 31, 1869, was 101,592.

By the census taken on the 7th February last, the actual population on that day is stated to have been only 99,328, the proportion of the sexes being: males, 52,853; females, 46,475.

The actual population was therefore less than the estimated by 2,264.

Such a result is certainly contrary to what might have been reasonably expected, on the assumption that a number of births are annually left unregistered, and it can only be explained by supposing that a number of persons of whom no record is kept annually leave the Colony.

Comparison of Census of 1870 and 1861.

Proceeding to compare the census of 1870 with that of 1861—the interval between the two being eight years and ten months—we find an increase on the whole of 9,351, or 10·39 per cent. The difference between the number in the census of 31st March, 1857, and that of 7th April, 1861—a period of four years and a few days—was 8,485, or 10·41 per cent., so that the increase of population is now only about half as rapid as it was at the date of the previous census.

On the 7th February, 1870, the proportion of males to females was as 113·72 to 100: on the 7th April, 1861, it was as 122·80 to 100. The disproportion between the sexes has therefore, as might naturally be expected, been somewhat lessened.

	Males.				Females.			
	1861.		1870.		1861.		1870.	
	Persons.	Proportion per cent.*	Persons.	Proportion per cent.*	Persons.	Proportion per cent.*	Persons.	Proportion per cent.*
All ages - -	49,593	100·00	52,853	100·00	40,384	100·00	46,475	100·00
Under 1 year -	1,612	3·25	1,484	2·81	1,505	3·73	1,403	3·02
2 years -	1,415	2·86	1,291	2·44	1,429	3·54	1,327	2·86
5 „ -	4,612	9·30	4,410	8·34	4,426	10·96	4,387	9·44
10 „ -	5,545	11·18	7,426	14·05	5,563	13·78	7,166	15·42
15 „ -	4,182	8·43	6,758	12·79	4,058	10·05	6,791	14·61
20 „ -	3,384	6·83	4,295	8·12	3,918	9·70	4,553	9·80
30 „ -	5,965	12·03	5,664	10·72	7,157	17·72	6,567	14·13
40 „ -	7,967	16·08	5,198	9·83	5,644	13·98	5,488	11·81
50 „ -	7,322	14·77	6,280	11·88	3,769	9·33	4,244	9·13
60 „ -	4,504	9·08	5,289	10·01	1,825	4·51	2,707	5·82
70 „ -	2,270	4·57	3,225	6·10	822	2·03	1,259	2·71
80 „ -	631	1·27	1,262	2·39	226	0·56	494	1·06
90 „ -	154	0·31	235	0·45	39	0·10	79	0·17
Above 90 „ -	21	0·04	36	0·07	3	0·01	10	0·02

* The above percentages are the ratios to the total of each sex, not to the total population.

TASMANIA.

On several former occasions I have had to remark on the continuous decrease of effective males, and the corresponding increase in the proportion of those who are incapacitated by infancy or old age from assisting in the production of wealth. The above Table affords a convincing proof of the fact. In 1861 the proportions for males were—

Under 15 years of age	35·02 per cent.
Fifteen and under 50	49·71 „
Fifty and upwards	15·27 „

In 1870 they were—

Under 15 years	40·43 per cent.
Fifteen and under 50	40·55 „
Fifty and upwards	19·02 „

The males under 15 had therefore increased by 5·41 per cent. of the whole number of males; those above 50 had increased by 3·75 per cent.; while those between 15 and 50, the most vigorous period of life, had declined by 9·16 per cent., or almost exactly equal to the joint increase of the other two classes.

Dealing with the female population in the same way, we arrive at the following result:—

	1861.	1870.
	Per cent. of total Females.	Per cent. of total Females.
Under 15 years of age	42·06	45·35
Fifteen and under 50	50·73	44·87
Fifty and upwards	7·21	9·78

The same law is also found to prevail here—although not in the same degree—the increase being—Under 15, 3·29 per cent.; over 50, 2·57 per cent.; the decrease on those between 15 and 50 being 5·86 per cent.

In England and Wales, by the last census of 1861, the proportions of each age to persons of the same sex of all ages were—

	Males, per cent.	Females, per cent.
Under 15 years	36·70	34·62
Fifteen and under 50	49·19	50·52
Fifty and upwards	14·11	14·86

While then England had only 36·70 per cent. of her males under 15, we have 40·43 per cent.; while she has 49·19 per cent. at the most vigorous age, between 15 and 50, we have only 40·55 per cent.; and while she has only 14·11 per cent. of men of an age at which most people may be supposed to have passed the most useful period of their life, we have 19·02 per cent.

Thus in every way the comparision is against ourselves.

The practical conclusion to be drawn from these facts is, that an influx of able-bodied males in the most vigorous period of life is an absolute necessity. The exertions of Mr. Buck in Germany, and the strong almost feverish desire on the part of a large class in England to emigrate, will do much to promote such an influx; and the general depression in the sister Colonies, by equalizing the conditions in each case, together with the prospect of extensive and profitable gold fields being shortly developed in Tasmania, will further tend to the same result. Hitherto the superior inducements offered to capital and labour by the other Colonies have attracted them thither; but a reaction has now set in, which must result to the advantage of this Colony.

It is a very remarkable fact that while in England the proportion of females of 50 and upwards was 14·86 per cent. of the whole number, in this Colony it was only 9·79 (and in 1861 only 7·21) per cent., with a considerable deficiency also of those between 15 and 50.

Nationality.

Out of the total population, numbering 99,328, we find that 59,119 are native born; 1,793 were born in the Australian Colonies; 37,145 in Great Britain and Ireland; 506

in Germany; 128 in the East Indies; 143 in the United States; and only 494 in all other countries. The native-born therefore amounted to 59·52 per cent. of the whole; the British-born to 37·40 per cent. TASMANIA.

As regards the conjugal condition of the people, 15,665 males and 15,498 females were married, and 37,188 males and 30,977 females were unmarried. On a comparison with the numbers given by the preceding census, there appears, as we might expect, a diminution in the married and a large increase in the unmarried. The percentage of the married was in 1861, 35·02 of the whole population; in 1870, only 31·37. The percentage of the unmarried was in 1861, 64·98; in 1870, 68·63. Widows and widowers are not distinguished, being, it is to be presumed, classed among the married. Conjugal condition.

In England and Wales, at the time of the last census, the number of persons who were or had been married formed 40·04 per cent. of the whole population; the celibates forming 59·96 per cent.

It appears, therefore, that in Tasmania 8·67 per cent. less of the population are married than in England.

Considering how much less severe the struggle to support existence is in this Colony than in the old countries, we ought to expect that in a healthy condition of things, a larger proportion of married persons should be found here than there. That such is not the case indicates—what has before been shown to be the case—that there is an undue preponderance of old people and children, and a very large deficiency of persons—especially males—of the most desirable and useful age. In fact, our population consists largely of "ineffectives"—the consumers bearing an inordinate proportion to the producers. Hence our dependence upon external sources for many commodities which ought to be produced at home: hence also the increase of idleness and vice among the children and youths who infest the streets, and not unfrequently make their appearance at the police offices.

It is much to be wished, that in working out the results of the census, the occupations of the people could have been indicated with more copiousness and minuteness, and classified more in accordance with the system adopted in other countries, but the smallness of the sum voted for taking the census no doubt prevented much being done in this direction. Thereare consequently but few points in which we can compare the industrial condition of our own population with that of other countries. It must suffice, therefore, to observe that the method of classification employed gives the following millesimal proportion to the number of males of 15 years and upwards:— Occupations.

	Per 1000.
Merchants and bankers	3·24
Legal profession	2·25
Medical profession	2·57
Clergymen	4·09
Army and navy	5·37
Proprietors and occupiers of sheep and cattle farms	18·87
Farmers—proprietors and occupiers	153·71
In Government employ	19·53
Schoolmasters and mistresses	5·81
Retail dealers (including hawkers)	36·59
Artisans and mechanics	142·07
Domestic servants, male	31·35
Labourers { Farm	327·47
Labourers { Other	117·55
Licensed victuallers*	12·96
Seafaring persons	27·92
Unclassified	88·65

Distributed according to its religious tenets, the whole population gives the following centesimal ratios:— Religion.

	Per cent.
Church of England	53·41
Church of Rome	22·24
Church of Scotland	6·69

* Licensed victuallers are stated in the census to be 408 in number; in the return they are stated to have been 329 on 31st December last.

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	Per cent.
Free Church ditto	2·43
Independents	3·96
Baptists	0·94
Wesleyan Methodists	7·23
Jews	0·23
Mahomedans or Pagans	0·004
Other sects	2·86

At the census of 1861 the number of persons returned as belonging to the Church of England was 54·72 per cent. of the whole population; to the Church of Rome, 21·60 per cent.; so that while the Church of England has lost 1·31 per cent., the Church of Rome has gained 0·64 per cent. Similarly, the Church of Scotland will be found to have lost 0·66 per cent.; the Free Church of Scotland, 0·21 per cent.; the Jews, 0·15 per cent.; while the Independents have gained 0·35 per cent.; the Baptists, 0·02 per cent.; the Wesleyans, 0·38 per cent.; and all other denominations, 0·96 per cent.

The increase per cent. on the numbers of each denomination in 1861 was—Church of England, 7·75; Church of Rome, 13·57; Church of Scotland, 0·39; Free Church of Scotland, 1·85; Independents, 21·10; Baptists, 12·44; Wesleyans, 16·50; all other persuasions, 66·37. The Jews alone show a decrease on their own number in 1861, and they have diminished to the extent of 32·36 per cent.

The largest increase (66·37), it will be observed, is in those who are set down under the comprehensive designation of "Other Sects;" and it would have been interesting if we could have discovered what religious body it is which, while bearing so small a proportion to other bodies, is yet showing a power of accretion so much greater than theirs.

Education. The state of education among our population was thus represented:—

	Per cent.
Persons who can read and write	56·32
Ditto, read only	14·04
Persons who cannot read	29·64

At the date of the previous census, in 1861, it was found that only 42·62 per cent. could read and write; that 14·60 per cent. could read only; and that 31·75 per cent. were totally uneducated.

At that date the proportion of schoolmasters (nothing is said in the census about schoolmistresses) to children under 15 was 1 to 115; by the last census the number of masters and mistresses was 1 to 76.

So far as general education goes, therefore, the progress made is highly satisfactory. It is, however, much to be regretted that no corresponding advance has been made in industrial or technical education—that while so much has been done by the State for the *head*, so little has been done for the *hand*.

The number of children receiving instruction appears, from the householders' returns (which are somewhat in excess of the school returns), to be:—

	Males.	Females.
Attending public schools	3,760	3,164
Ditto private schools	2,983	3,409
Educated in Queen's Asylum	214	168
Ditto Ragged and Industrial schools	232	207
Number at school	7,189	7,948
Ditto being educated at home	1,787	2,370
	8,976	10,318
Total number of children between 2 and 15 years	18,594	18,344
Number of children not receiving any secular instruction	9,618	8,026

From these data we find that the proportion per cent. of children of the above age educated and uneducated was as follows;—Educated in public schools—males, 20·22; females, 17·25: in private schools—males, 16·04; females, 18·58; in eleemosynary

schools,—males, 2·40; females, 2·04. The aggregate percentage attending school was, therefore,—males, 38·66; females, 37·87; and the percentage educated at home was—males, 9·61; females, 12·92. The total number receiving instruction was thus—boys, 48·27 per cent.; girls, 50·79 per cent.: leaving 51·73 of boys, and 49·21 per cent. of girls, totally uneducated. There were 27·10 per cent. of children of the above-mentioned age attending Sunday schools; but it is to be presumed that all these were also receiving secular instruction, and are therefore included in the above total of children who are being educated. TASMANIA.

The number of occupied dwellings and stores on the date of last census is returned as 18,048, the unoccupied as 2,146, and the unfinished as 170. The occupied were consequently in the proportion of 88·70 per cent. of the whole number; the unoccupied of 10·54 per cent.; and the unfinished of 0·83 per cent. Of the 20,364 dwellings, 7,844 or 38·52 per cent. were of stone or brick, and 12,520 or 61·48 per cent. of wood, iron, or other material, 99 (inhabited by persons on the gold-fields and by those employed on the railway) being tents. Dwellings.

The proportion of empty buildings is enormously large, being about 1 in every $9\frac{1}{2}$. At the census of 1861 it was only 5·52 per cent., or about 1 in 18.

If all the 18,048 occupied dwellings were inhabited (many of them being stores were probably not), there would be $5\frac{1}{2}$ inmates in each dwelling.

The increase in the number of dwellings since 1861 is 1,771, or 9·52 per cent.

The number of churches, chapels, and other buildings used as places for public worship, as ascertained by the census, is 316, or 1 for every 314 persons. The number of clergymen is stated to be 129, or 1 to every 770 persons.

II.—*Trade, Commerce, and Navigation.*

The total value of goods imported into the Colony during the year 1869 is stated to have been 975,412*l.*, being greater by 130,260*l.*, or 15·41 per cent., than in 1868. The amount per head of the estimated population in 1869 was therefore 9*l.* 12*s.* $0\frac{1}{4}d.$, against 8*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* in 1868, and 8*l.* 13*s.* $11\frac{1}{2}d.$ in 1867. Imports.

For the last three years the imports were:—

Years.	Total Value.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−).
	£	£
1867	856,348	− 85,759
1868	845,152	− 11,196
1869	975,412	+130,260

It will be seen from the Table given below, showing the distribution of this import trade, that the increase is to be found almost entirely in shipments from the United Kingdom.

Countries.	Imports.		
	1867.	1868.	1869.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom	299,892	265,396	408,188
Victoria	432,347	458,073	459,555
New South Wales	49,715	46,099	34,764
Queensland	—	135	3,705
South Australia	8,875	6,225	8,640
New Zealand	5,058	2,820	2,115
Mauritius	54,051	59,367	47,585
Calcutta	—	455	—
Valparaiso	—	2,760	—
Cape of Good Hope	—	—	480
China	6,410	3,602	4,820
Southern Whale Fisheries	—	220	5,560
Total	856,348	845,152	975,412

There is a noticeable expansion of the import trade with Victoria. That with Queensland revived, being about the same in 1869 as it was in 1866, having fallen to zero in 1867. With South Australia it has only come into existence in the last three years, and may be expected to improve.

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On the other hand there was a decrease in our imports from New South Wales, and the same appears to have been going on for some years, the declared value having been, in 1866, 72,844*l.*; in 1867, 49,715*l.*; in 1868, 46,099*l.*; and in 1869, only 34,764*l.* There was also a decrease in the trade with New Zealand and with the Mauritius. The remaining items are not of sufficient importance to require special mention.

The distribution of the imports for the past three years, reduced to centesimal proportion, was as follows:—

COUNTRIES.	Proportion per cent. of Total Imports.		
	1867.	1868.	1869.
United Kingdom	35·02	31·40	41·85
Victoria	50·49	54·20	47·11
New South Wales	5·80	5·45	3·57
Queensland	1·04	0·74	0·38
South Australia	—	0·02	0·88
New Zealand	0·59	0·33	0·22
Mauritius	6·31	7·02	4·88
Calcutta	—	0·05	—
Valparaiso	—	0·33	—
Cape of Good Hope	—	—	0·05
China	0·75	0·43	0·49
Southern Whale Fisheries	—	0·03	0·57

The imports at the respective Ports of Hobart Town and Launceston, for the past three years, were:—

	IMPORTS.		
	1867.	1868.	1869.
	£	£	£
Hobart Town	495,030	439,540	443,735
Launceston	361,318	405,612	531,676

EXPORTS.

The total value of goods exported from Tasmania in 1869 is returned as 826,932*l.*, being less by 93,888*l.*, or 10·20 per cent., than in 1868. The rate per head in 1869 was 8*l.* 2*s.* 9½*d.*; in 1868, 9*l.* 2*s.* 10½*d.*; and in 1867, 8*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*

For the last three years the exports stand thus:—

Years.	Total Value.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−).
	£	£
1867	790,494	− 44,112
1868	920,820	+130,326
1869	826,932	− 93,888

The causes of the decrease in 1869 will come under review presently.

The table which follows shows the distribution of the exports in 1869 and the two previous years —

COUNTRIES.	EXPORTS.		
	1867.	1868.	1869.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom	378,532	435,523	331,748
Victoria	223,879	277,797	344,523
New South Wales	70,157	111,631	82,426
Queensland	14,076	23,001	8,788
South Australia	26,260	16,094	16,744
New Zealand	74,057	50,764	41,272
Mauritius	2,533	5,630	821
China	—	—	—
Guam	—	380	610
Total	790,494	920,820	326,932

In the shipments to the United Kingdom there is seen to have been a decrease in 1869 of 106,775*l.* as compared with 1868, and of 46,784*l.* as compared with 1867. With Queensland and New Zealand the outward trade appears also, by these figures, to have considerably decreased; while the same trade with Victoria shows a large and steady increase.

The value of Tasmanian produce exported in 1869 was 96·39 per cent. of the whole: that of British and foreign produce exported being no more than 3·61 per cent. In 1868 the ratios were respectively 98·72 and 1·28 per cent.

The centesimal distribution of the exports for the last triennium is shown below.

Countries.	Proportion per cent. of Total Exports.		
	1867.	1868.	1869.
United Kingdom	47·89	47·30	40·12
Victoria	28·32	30·17	41·66
New South Wales	8·88	12·12	9·97
Queensland	1·78	2·50	1·06
South Australia	3·32	1·75	2·02
New Zealand	9·49	5·51	5·00
Mauritius	0·32	0·61	0·10
Guam	—	0·04	0·07

A comparison, for the last three years, of the export trade at the two ports of Hobart Town and Launceston, gives the following result:—

	Exports.		
	1867.	1868.	1869.
	£	£	£
Hobart Town	465,990	418,810	406,960
Launceston	324,504	502,010	419,972

It has been shown that there was a decrease to the extent of 93,888*l.* in the value of articles exported in 1869. In wool alone there was a difference of 95,312*l.* The causes of this decline were two—defect in quantity, and the fall in price. The former amounted to 529,343 pounds, and seems to have been referable to the fact that one vessel took two cargoes in 1868 instead of one, so that the decrease in quantity in 1869 may be assumed to have been only apparent. The clip of 1867–8 was valued at an average rate of 1*s.* 3*d*½. per pound; that of 1868–9 at only 1*s.* 1*d.*

The export of bark in 1869 was 4,948½ tons, against 4,579½ tons in 1868, being the maximum in the last ten years, with the exception of 1867.

That of butter and cheese was fairly sustained; but there is room for a very large increase in the production of both, but especially of butter. It is notorious that in Hobart Town the supply of fresh butter constantly falls short of the demand; and there is room for a considerable increase in this direction. But, besides the home demand, there is now a good prospect of establishing a profitable trade in butter with the United Kingdom, where the present scarcity of the article, and the late discoveries of extensive adulteration, would specially dispose consumers to welcome an abundant supply of good and genuine quality. By this means not only would our wealth be increased, but our system of agriculture would also be improved, for there is hardly any industry connected with the soil so eminently conducive to a high state of cultivation as that of dairy farming. The adoption of the American system would greatly tend to economize labour and increase the profit, by introducing better appliances and a more perfect system than those now in use.

The export of flour was somewhat under the average, but as Victoria is now nearly supplying her own wants, the decline was only such as might have been expected.

The trade in fruit, preserved and green, was unusually brisk, the quantity having been larger than in any of the ten years from 1860 to 1869.

The export of wheat bears a favourable comparison with the early part of the decade, that of oats was a fair average, and that of barley shows a decided increase on all the years of that period except 1868. In connection with the latter may be mentioned the steady increase in the production of hops, the export having been in 1869, 210,241

TASMANIA. pounds, against 180,977 in 1868. It may be hoped that the growth of barley for malting purposes may be increased in a like proportion; and that the great advantage which the cooler climate of this Island offers, beyond that of any of the Australian Colonies, may be turned to account by using our home-grown malt and hops in the manufacture of malt liquors for supplying the wants of the neighbouring Colonies.

Hides, skins, and leather show an increase in quantity in 1869; while the value was greater in that year than in any of the past decade.

The trade in live stock is in a very unsatisfactory condition. The export of horses, once a very important source of profit, has been steadily diminishing from year to year, and from 1,949 in 1863, fell to 331 in 1869. The Scab Act, lately passed, will, it is supposed, have the effect of bringing into greater demand Tasmanian sheep for breeding purposes.

It is satisfactory to find that there was a decided improvement in the state of the whale fisheries, the quantity of sperm oil exported in 1869 having been 684¼ tuns, against 517 in 1868.

The timber trade showed signs of continued depression; while vegetables, on the contrary, seem to have been in more active demand, the quantity having been 13,231 tons in 1869, and only 10,885 in 1868.

The total sea-borne trade in 1869, represented by the imports and exports, was 1,802,344*l.*, against 1,765,972*l.* in 1868., being an increase of 36,372*l.*

Shipping. The returns of shipping show that 652 vessels, of 114,410 tons burden, and manned by 7,594 seamen, entered the ports of the Colony in 1869. There was a decrease upon 1868 of 2 in the number of vessels, but an increase of 3,857 in the tonnage, and of 397 in the crews.

As regards nationality, 31 of these vessels were British, 615 colonial, and 6 were foreign.

The number of vessels cleared in 1869 was 664, of 112,565 tons burden, employing 7,631 seamen. This gives an increase upon the corresponding numbers in 1868 of 5 vessels, 1,074 tons, and 374 seamen.

Twenty-eight of these vessels belonged to the United Kingdom, 628 to the Colonies, and 8 to foreign states.

If we compare the amount of shipping at the different ports, and extend the comparison to the last three years, we shall find the following result:—

INWARDS.

PORTS.	1867.		1868.		1869.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Hobart Town - - -	222	49,085	223	52,201	218	51,168
Launceston - - - -	135	29,945	166	40,386	160	44,687
Ditto, Sub-ports, viz.:—						
Stanley - - -	83	7,850	76	5,984	66	5,074
Torquay - - -	20	1,629	44	3,085	49	3,824
Leith - - -	77	5,228	82	5,044	101	6,081
Wynyard - - -	61	3,653	63	3,853	58	3,576
	241	18,360	265	17,966	274	18,555

OUTWARDS.

PORTS.	1867.		1868.		1869.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Hobart Town - - -	231	50,742	226	51,617	220	50,579
Launceston - - -	141	31,458	165	40,959	155	43,237
Ditto, Sub-ports, viz.:—						
Stanley - - -	65	6,656	64	5,610	63	5,112
Torquay - - -	38	3,891	46	3,626	51	4,091
Leith - - -	90	5,959	89	5,465	111	6,468
Wynyard - - -	66	4,048	69	4,214	64	3,078
	259	20,554	268	18,915	289	18,749

TASMANIA.

In the first table, at Hobart Town there was a decrease in the number as compared with the first year, but an increase on the tonnage: at Launceston there was an increase on both number and tonnage; at the two sub-ports of Stanley and Wynyard there was a decrease both of numbers and tonnage. At the other two sub-ports, Torquay and Leith, there was an increase in both. On the whole, it will be seen that the tonnage at Hobart Town has increased from 49,085 to 51,168, being less, however, than in 1868; that at Launceston it has increased from 29,945 to 44,687; and that at the sub-ports it has very slightly increased, from 18,360 to 18,555, having fallen in 1868 to 17,966.

The tonnage of vessels entered inwards at Hobart Town in 1869 was 44·72 per cent. of the total tonnage; at Launceston, 39·06 per cent.; and at the northern sub-ports, 16·22 per cent.

The second table shows that at Hobart Town there was a decrease between the first and last years of the period in the number, from 231 to 220, and in the tonnage from 50,742 to 50,579; that at Launceston the number had increased from 141 to 155, and the tonnage from 31,458 to 43,237; and that at the sub-ports the number had increased from 259 to 289, while the tonnage had declined from 20,554 to 18,749.

Shipping registered.

The number of registered vessels in 1869 was 185, of 17,260 tons burden, against 187, of 17,477 tons burden, in 1868. Included in the number for 1869 were 11 steamers, of 3,078 tons, being the same number as in 1868.

Whale fisheries.

The whale fisheries furnished employment for 17 vessels, of 4,364 tons burden, manned by 415 men. They are stated to have produced 13 tuns of black oil, and 643 tuns of sperm, with 8 cwt. of whalebone, the whole valued at 48,910*l.* There was an increase in 1869 of one vessel employed, with a tonnage of 368, and in the produce, of 42 tuns of sperm oil. The decrease of 3,636*l.* in the value of produce in 1869 was therefore caused by a decline in the price of oil, and not by any remission of energy in the pursuit of whaling.

Coal raised.

The return of coal raised shows an increase of 1,202 tons during the last year, the increase being at Seymour and the River Don. The mines at the latter place will probably soon become more productive, as the population of that part of the Island may be expected to expand under the influences which are now at work in the north of Tasmania.

Prices of provisions.

Comparing the prices of provisions at Hobart Town in 1869 and in 1868, we find that bread, flour, and wheat were cheaper in the former year, but that butter, eggs, pork, veal, and tea were somewhat dearer. The price of beef and mutton in the market continued about the same, but the contract price was higher by 1*s.* 3*d.* per 100 lbs. The contract price of fresh butter was 1*d.* per lb. higher, and of potatoes, 10*d.* per 100 lbs. lower. The necessaries of life were therefore cheaper in 1869.

Rates of wages.

The return of rates of wages presents no features sufficiently remarkable to require particular notice. Variations, as compared with the previous year, there are to a considerable extent; but they are not traceable to the operation of any general principle, or common cause. They seem to be mere local fluctuations.

III.—*Finance.*

General and land revenue.

The receipts and expenditure of the general revenue and land fund for the years 1868 and 1869, as ascertained up to the 31st July, 1870, are shown in the following statement, which has been furnished to me by the Treasury:—

GENERAL REVENUE, exclusive of DEBENTURES and EXPENDITURE under LOANS ACTS.

	1868.	1869.
REVENUE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs and Bonding Rents	132,159 1 2	138,434 11 2
Inland Revenue	53,164 8 6	54,156 11 9
Other Receipts	19,718 12 9	24,249 7 11
Estimated Receipts outstanding	58 4 5	3,405 0 0
	205,100 6 10	220,245 10 10
EXPENDITURE.		
Ordinary Expenditure	193,334 18 5	210,716 19 4
Estimated Expenditure outstanding	9,616 11 6	10,225 0 0
	202,951 9 11	220,941 19 4

TASMANIA.

LAND FUND, exclusive of DEBENTURES and EXPENDITURE under LOANS ACTS.

	1868.	1869.
REVENUE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Territorial Revenue - - -	58,708 16 5	56,602 0 2
Other Receipts - - - -	785 15 7	935 2 0
	59,494 12 0	57,537 2 2
EXPENDITURE.		
Ordinary Expenditure - - -	49,559 17 9	47,350 9 7
Reserves under Waste Lands Acts 4 and 5	13,035 0 8	11,993 8 11
Estimated Expenditure outstanding - -	—	100 0 0
	62,594 18 5	59,443 18 6

Imperial expenditure.

The amount disbursed by the Imperial Government through the commissariat department was 69,015*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*, against 63,057*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* in the previous year. The increase occurs under the head of "Convict Service."

Course of exchange.

The rates of discount and exchange in 1869 were nearly the same as those of the preceding year. The only material difference was in the rate of interest allowed by the banks on fixed deposits, which in the first quarter of 1868 had ranged from 3 per cent. for three months, to 5 per cent. for twelve months, and was subsequently twice reduced by 1 per cent. on each occasion. The rate which prevailed in the latter part of 1868 prevailed also in the first half of 1869, rising by 1 per cent. in the latter half.

Banks.

The average Assets and Liabilities of the Banks in 1868 and 1869 may be thus compared:—

	ASSETS.			LIABILITIES.		
	Coin and Bullion.	All other Assets.	Total.	Deposits.	Notes in Circulation, and all other Liabilities.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1868	171,382	1,172,118	1,343,500	750,754	81,541	832,295
1869	198,291	1,136,204	1,334,495	767,071	93,614	860,685

There was thus an increase in the specie of 15·70 per cent., and in the deposits of 2·17 per cent.; and an increase also on the notes and other liabilities of 14·80 per cent. The slight decrease on "all other assets" was on balances due from one bank to another.

Savings' banks.

A comparison of the returns furnished by the Savings' Banks for the same years gives these results:—

	Average Amount to Credit of Depositors.	Average Amount to Credit of Reserve Fund.	Total Amount of Deposits during the Year.	Total Amount of Repayments during the Year.
	£	£	£	£
1868	194,960	23,152	111,466	105,266
1869	212,508	24,185	112,019	105,544

The amount of deposits had therefore increased by 9·00 per cent., and the Reserve Fund by 4·46 per cent. In 1868, the repayments were to the deposits in the ratio of 94·66 to 100; in 1869, they were in the ratio of 94·22 to 100.

The Bank Returns, therefore, show an improvement in the state of the Colony during the last year.

Post Office money orders.

The number of Post Office Money Orders issued in 1869 is returned as 4,398, against 3,378 in 1868, and the amount in 1869, 16,667*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*, against 13,070*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* in 1868. The number of orders paid in 1869 was 3,135, against 2,512 in 1868, and the amounts in the two years were 12,990*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*, and 10,719*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, respectively.

Two other returns have been added on this occasion, from which it appears that of the whole number issued, 1,537 were on places in Tasmania; 1,372 were on Victoria; 756 on England and Wales; and 201 on New South Wales The numbers on the remaining countries are so small that they need not be particularized.

Of the whole number issued, 3,427 were for sums of five pounds and under; 971 were for sums between five and ten pounds.

The state of the Public Debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1869, was as follows:— Public debt.

	£
Debentures issued under Consolidation Act, payable in London	700,000
Ditto ditto, payable in Hobart Town - - -	448,000
Total amount of debentures issued - - - -	1,148,000
Debentures authorized by Loans Acts, but not issued on 31st December, 1869 - - - - - -	201,000
Deduct amount of debentures authorized for the purpose of redeeming other debentures falling due in 1870 - -	35,000
	£166,000

Of the total amount of debentures issued, namely, 1,148,000*l.*, the sum of 300,000*l.* was on account of the Launceston and Western Railway Company, who repaid to the Treasury the interest for the year on that sum; making the total indebtedness of the Colony, for Government purposes only, on 31st December last, 848,000*l.*

Included in that amount was a sum of 100,000*l.* for the commutation of the annual grant of 15,000*l.* hitherto made under the Constitutional Act for the maintenance of public worship.

Of the amount of 201,000*l.* for which loans were authorized on 31st December last, but not actually contracted, 100,000*l.* were for the completion of the Launceston and Western Railway Company, under the same conditions as to payment and guarantee of interest as in the case of the former loan.

The return of Gold produced in 1869 contrasts very unfavourably with that of the preceding year, only 137 oz. 2 dwts. having (so far as was known) been obtained, against 245 oz. 7 dwts. in 1868; the number of men employed—all in alluvial operations—being only 15 against 48 in 1868. None of the Quartz Crushing Companies was at work in 1869. Gold mining.

Much as this falling off is to be regretted, it gives no occasion for discouragement. New gold-fields have been discovered at Waterhouse, West Tamar, and other places, and companies have been formed, and have now abundantly proved that mining operations may be carried on with profit in Tasmania. It may safely be predicted that in the latter part of the present year, or early in the next, this Colony will take an important place among gold-producing countries; while the deposits of silver and other ores on the northern coast will also contribute largely to the increase of its wealth. It may be confidently stated that we have abundant mineral treasures in many parts of the Colony, which only require the judicious employment of capital to develop them.

Much undeserved discredit has been thrown upon the pursuit of gold mining in this Colony, in consequence of the unsound way in which it has in too many instances been attempted to carry it on. Companies have been projected more, as it would seem, as a means of selling shares, than with a view to the legitimate employment of capital; and thus, while many companies exist in name, but few have shown any signs of actual vitality. In a little more time, however, these "bubble" companies will be weeded out; and it will come to be generally understood, that gold-mining, like every other industry, cannot be profitably carried on without ample capital and patient perseverance.

IV.—*Establishments or Institutions maintained or assisted by Government.*

The revenue of the Post Office for the year 1869 was 12,388*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*; the expenditure, 13,598*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* In 1868 the revenue and expenditure were 11,774*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* and 13,663*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*, respectively. Post Office.

The number of letters which passed through the post offices at Hobart Town and Launceston in those years was—

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Years.	Received.				Despatched.				Total.
	Paid.	Ship.	Franked.	Total.	Inland, Paid.	Ship, Paid.	Franked.		
							Inland.	Ship.	
1868	196,424	156,729	74,803	427,956	181,626	132,361	63,967	3,163	381,117
1869	200,108	166,156	79,210	445,474	183,676	142,140	67,724	3,380	396,920

The number of town and district letters was—

Years.	Paid	Franked.	Total.
1868	67,034	27,571	94,612
1869	73,555	26,477	100,032

The newspapers were as follows:—

Years.	Received.			Despatched.		
	Inland.	Ship.	Total.	Inland.	Ship.	Total.
1868	130,893	183,480	314,373	603,432	197,183	800,615
1869	142,859	194,179	337,038	678,288	193,531	871,819

On letters there was thus an increase in every case, except on town and district, franked, which show a slight decrease.

On ship newspapers despatched, there was a decrease of 3,652; on all other newspapers a considerable increase.

The number of post offices was increased in 1869 by 10; the persons employed, by 12; and the miles of post roads, by 200.

Electric telegraph.

The number and value of messages transmitted by the electric telegraph in 1868 and 1869 are shown below:—

Years.	Number.				Value of Messages.		
	Paid.	Free.	Shipping.	Total.	£	s.	d.
1868	3,269	2,297	500	6,066	2,484	16	8
1869	6,513	6,467	1,000	13,980	2,155	11	0

The number had thus more than doubled. The decrease in value of the messages is acounted for by the fact of the charges having been reduced in the early part of the year from a minimum of 2*s.* 6*d.* for ten words, to a uniform rate of 1*s.* for ten words throughout the Colony. On the 2nd May the submarine telegraph, establishing communication between Tasmania and the Continent of Australia, was formerly opened.

Salmon breeding.

The return of the expenditure on account of the Salmon Breeding Establishment is of little importance in itself; but the following statement, furnished to me by the Secretary of the Salmon Commissioners, of ova and young fry distributed during the year, will be read with interest beyond this Colony:—

RETURN, showing the distribution of OVA and FRY from the BREEDING PONDS, RIVER PLENTY, during the year ending 31st December, 1869.

	Ova.
Brown Trout—Victoria - - - -	1,800
Launceston - - - -	1,500
New Zealand - - - -	2,600
Total brown trout ova - - -	5,900

	Fry.
River Plenty	1,850
Southport	400
River Lachlan	1,100
Guy Fawkes Rivulet	200
Brown's River	200
River Derwent	2,000
Bagdad Rivulet	300
Swanport	200
Lachlan River (Upper)	200
East Coast	200
Port Esperance	150
Melton Mowbray	100
Peppermint Bay	50
Port Seymour	100
Kermandie River	339
Rivers Derwent and Styx	800
Total brown trout fry	8,089
Salmon trout—River Huon	500

JAMES M. CLARKE,
Secretary to Salmon Commissioners.

The expenditure of the penal and charitable establishments for the last two years may be thus shown:— Penal and charitable establishments.

	Chargeable to			
	Imperial Government.		Colonial Government.	
	1868.	1869.	1868.	1869.
Penal.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Port Arthur (including Pauper Establishment) for 1867–8	14,034 1 0	10,283 5 3½	12,069 11 0	10,479 18 5½
Gaol for Males, Hobart Town	341 6 8	90 11 0	4,157 9 0	4,147 12 8
Ditto Females, ditto	—	26 2 11	1,560 6 8	1,501 0 1
Gaol, &c., Launceston	11 15 1	—	3,346 14 7	3,353 4 4
	14,387 2 9	10,399 19 2½	21,134 1 3	19,481 15 6½
Charitable.				
Cascades Pauper Establishment	354 13 9	356 8 0	3,277 0 3	3,683 8 7
General Hospital, Hobart Town	347 7 11	203 13 6	3,991 0 0	4,019 17 0
Ditto, Launceston	75 6 1	35 16 0	2,493 14 2	2,225 1 6
Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk	1,203 17 11	1,224 9 6	4,814 14 4	5,160 5 9
Hospital, Campbell Town	—	—	268 17 0	303 18 0
Queen's Asylum for Destitute Children	1,511 11 4	1,520 13 5	5,607 15 10	4,992 17 6
Ditto, Farm	—	—	857 9 4*	762 18 2*
Brickfields Pauper Establishment	29 5 11	17 17 7	3,193 7 10	3,010 18 5
Industrial School for Females	—	—	49 12 6	191 3 6
Benevolent Societies	—	—	1,707 17 5	1,519 8 3
Ragged Schools	—	—	200 0 0	275 0 0
Cascade Reformatory for Males	—	—	—	137 13 3
The Boys' Home	—	—	—	150 16 11
	3,522 2 11	3,358 18 0	26,461 8 8	26,433 6 10
Total of Penal and Charitable Institutions	17,909 5 8	13,758 17 2½	47,595 9 11	45,915 2 4½

* Net cash expenditure, not crediting milk supplied to other Government establishments.

The sum at the disposal of the various Boards of Works in the year 1869 was 17,624*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*, of which 8,533*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* were expended, leaving a balance on the 31st December of 9,090*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* Board of Works.

The return relating to the Road Trusts shows a total of 2,739¼ miles of road under Road trusts.

their control; of receipts from rates, tolls, &c., 12,243*l.* 6*s.* 4½*d.*; from Government, 5,142*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*; of expenditure on salaries, 1,033*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*; on roads, &c., 15,149*l.* 12*s.*; on other matters, 2,013*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* The rates for road purposes made in the different districts ranged between threepence and one shilling in the pound.

Municipalities. The Municipalities of Hobart Town and Launceston comprise an area of 4,710 acres, with a population, according to the late census, of 29,760. The density of population in Hobart Town is 15·03 persons to a square acre; in Launceston, 3·10 persons to the acre. The rates in Hobart Town amounted to 3*s.* 0½*d.* in the pound; in Launceston, to 3*s.* 3*d.* The aggregate net annual value of property was 158,506; the aggregate amount received from rates, 23,075*l.* 11*s.*; from Government, 1,517*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*; from fees, fines, licences, &c., 1,684*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*; and from all other sources, 5,358*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* The expenditure in salaries was 3,035*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*; for police, 3,447*l.* 4*s.* 7*d*; for other purposes, 25,190*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*

In the rural municipalities the total area was 7,973,127 square acres; the net annual value of rateable property, 354,448*l.* 14*s.* (the rates averaging from sixpence to thirteen pence in the pound); the amount derived from rates, 12,209*l.* 16*s.* 3½*d.*; from Government, 3,340*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*; from fees, licences, &c., 2,319*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*; and from all other sources, 2,178*l.* 12*s.* 4½*d.* The total expenditure was—on salaries (not including police), 4,154*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*; on police, 13,245*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*; miscellaneous, 4,466*l.* 1*s.* 4*d*½.

V.—*Crown Land, Agriculture, and Live Stock.*

Crown lands. The area of Crown land leased in 1869 is returned as 1,441,413 acres, against 1,493,368 in 1868; the rental in 1869 being 7,307*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, against 7,881*l.* 1*s.* in 1868.

The total acreage of land sold and the receipts therefrom in those years was—

Years.	Country Lots.				Town and Suburban Allotments.			
	No.	Area.	Amount of Sale.	Average Price per Acre.	No.	Area.	Amount of Sale.	Average Price per Acre.
		A. R. P.	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*		A. R. P.	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1868	241	23,071 3 7	21,930 6 10	0 19 0	61	299 2 7 7/10	1,185 12 0	3 19 3
1869	255	19,181 2 35	20,912 6 4	1 1 9	50	292 3 13	1,009 0 0	3 9 1

The following shows some further particulars in regard to the country lots sold:—

Years.	50 Acres and under.		50 to 100 Acres.		100 to 500 Acres.		Above 500 Acres.	
	No. of Lots.	Area.	No. of Lots.	Area.	No. of Lots.	Area.	No. of Lots.	Area.
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.		A. R. P.		A. R. P.
1868	125	4,095 1 27	66	4,608 0 29	44	9,944 0 31	6	4,424 0 0
1869	153	5,707 2 27	84	6,412 2 13	13	3,105 1 35	5	3,956 0 0

The smaller lots, up to 100 acres, show a considerable increase, while those of 100 acres and upwards are seen to have decreased to a large extent, the causes being doubtless the prevalence of fluke in sheep and the low price of wool.

A new feature in this part of the statistics for 1869 is the return relating to Crown lands taken up for gold mining purposes, which shows that there were issued in that year 1,152 miners' rights; and that there were received 118 applications for mining leases, and 16 for prospecting claims; the amount received by the Surveyor-General, on these accounts, being 2,891*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*

Agriculture. In the statistics for 1868, the agricultural returns, having been delayed beyond the proper time, were published as an appendix. In the present volume they are inserted in their proper places. Endeavours were made this year to obtain the returns with more expedition; and with this view, the collectors were informed that they were expected to send them in by the 30th April, and that in case of delay in forwarding, or of carelessness in compiling them, a proportionate deduction would be made from the amount ordinarily allowed. In most instances this intimation had a beneficial result; but the defects of the present system of collection in the municipalities, being a necessary consequence of divided accountability, appear to be insuperable, except by a radical change.

The total area of land in cultivation in 1869–70 amounts to 368,484 acres, against 287,319 in 1868–69. The acreage in the different crops in those years was—

Crops.	1868–9.	1869–70.	Crops.	1868–9.	1869–70.
Wheat	62,186	62,373	Hay	32,275	34,862
Barley	7,954	9,030	Tobacco	166	222
Oats	24,190	30,061	Hops	476	561
Pease, beans, and tares	4,170	4,428	Gardens and orchards	5,688	5,480
Potatoes	7,977	9,290	Green forage	1,449	1,595
Root Crops, viz.—turnips, carrots, mangel wurzel, and onions	2,038	2,487	In permanent grasses	73,004	79,243
			Bare fallow	22,340	22,055
Artificial grasses, seed	709	1,207	All other cultivated land	41,688	55,566

The acreage under rotation of crops was stated to have been in 1869–70, 24,690; in 1868–9, 16,140. It is satisfactory to see that increased attention is being given by the agriculturists to the necessity of a proper change in the crops. Such improvements of system will be slow, and, at first, hardly perceptible; but the benefits of rotation, under drainage, machinery, and manures, are beginning to be acknowledged, and will slowly, but surely, become more generally adopted. Acreage.

The acreage under wheat in 1869–70 was nearly the same as in the previous year; in barley land there was an increase of 1,076 acres; in oat land an increase of 5,862 acres; in land in pease, beans, and tares, and root crops a slight increase; in the area under potatoes, an increase of 1,313 acres; under artificial grasses (seed), an increase of 498 acres; under hay, an increase of 1,587 acres; under tobacco, an increase of 56 acres. There are also increases on land in green forage, in permanent artificial grasses, and in "all other cultivated land." There are small decreases on gardens and orchards, and on bare fallows.

On the area in hops there is an increase of 85 acres, or 17·86 per cent. In 1868–9 there were only nine districts in which hops were grown; in 1869–70 there were fourteen.

At Deloraine, 7 acres are returned as having been sown with flax, and the collector states that "many persons grow small quantities of it;" but, it would seem, only for the sake of the seed.

It is scarcely necessary to mention here the gross produce of the different crops; a better knowledge of the yield will be gained by comparing the average produce in the last two years, taken in connection with the increases or decreases given above. Produce.

Crops.	Average Yield.		Crops.	Average Yield.	
	1868–9.	1869–70.		1868–9.	1869–70.
Wheat, bushels	14·13	15·35	Turnips, tons	5·53	4·71
Barley, „	15·79	22·49	Carrots, „	7·07	8·20
Oats, „	19·75	22·19	Mangel wurzel, tons	11·43	11·14
Pease, „	13·13	19·21	Onions, tons	3·55	3·54
Beans, „	14·33	19·73	Artificial grasses (seed), bushels	19·64	12·69
Tares, „	16·07	11·56	Hay, tons	0·85	1·29
Potatoes, tons	3·43	3·54	Tobacco, lbs.	1,679	1,985

It will be seen that on all the principal crops there was an increase—in some cases very considerable—in the latter year. Hops are not included in the above table, because no fair comparison can as yet be drawn on the average for all the districts, inasmuch as the greater part of the plantations are only recent, and have not come into full bearing. At New Norfolk, the oldest hop-growing district, the average per acre increased from 607·96 lbs. in 1868–9 to 836·45 lbs. in 1869–70; in the district of Hobart it increased from 148 lbs. to 611·94 lbs.; at Brighton, from 250 lbs. to 400 lbs.; at Glenorchy, from 154·80 lbs. to 451·61 lbs.; and so with other districts. The gross yield increased from 242·268 lbs. to 415·064 lbs., or 71·32 per cent.

The prices of the principal agricultural products were lower in 1869–70 than in the previous year.

As regards agricultural machinery there is an increase of 16 steam engines, of 21 clod crushers, of 2 chaff cutters (worked by steam); of 34 cultivators (worked by horses); of 2 corn crushsre; of 8 hay elevators; of 27 horse hoes, grubbers, and scarifiers; of 2 irrigation works; of 9 mowing machines; of 1 sub-soil plough; of 3 reaping machines;

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of 2 seed drills (horse); while there is a decrease of 3 threshing machines; of 2 hay rakes; and of 2 sowing machines.

On the whole, the results of these returns are favourable; and the Report of the Collector at Westbury gives a very encouraging account of the progress of improvement in that district. It may be hoped that other districts will not be slow to follow so good an example.

Live stock.

The returns of live stock for the year ended March 31, 1870, show a total of horses, 22,583, being an increase of 71; horned cattle, 95,097, a decrease of 10,353; sheep, 1,531,187, a decrease of 184,430; goats, 2,662, a decrease of 36; mules, 4,—an increase of 1; asses, 5, an increase of 2; and pigs, 49,524, a decrease of 5,698.

The number of persons who washed their sheep in warm water was—in 1868–9, 74; in 1869–70, 49. The number who sheared in the grease was, in 1868–9, 244; in 1869–70, 348. If these numbers are correct, it would seem that the use of warm water was regarded with less favour than in the previous year.

The exports of live stock in 1869 were, horses, 331; horned cattle, 1; sheep, 2,890; pigs, 2,190.

The return of live stock imported and slaughtered, furnished by the Municipal Inspectors of stock at Hobart Town and Launceston, show that 86,886 sheep and lambs were slaughtered in 1869, against 76,512 in 1868; that of these numbers, 24,856 were imported in 1869, and 44,732 in 1868; that 7,833 horned cattle were slaughtered in 1869, and 6,304 in 1868, the numbers imported having been 1,657 and 2,427, respectively; and that 3,581 pigs were slaughtered in 1869, and 3,011 in 1868, 536 having been imported in 1860, and none in 1869.

These figures show a general decrease in the importations. They also show—what I predicted last year—that what some of the agriculturists were desirous of bringing about by means of protective duties, which would have been directly pernicious to the consumer, and indirectly so to themselves, has now resulted from the more healthy operation of natural laws.

VI.—*Law, Crime, &c.*

Committals.

The number of persons committed for trial in 1869 was 155 against 178 in 1868, a decrease of 6·74 per cent.

Trials in Superior Courts.

In the Superior Courts there were 112 persons tried, of whom 81 were convicted and 31 acquitted. The corresponding numbers in 1868 were—tried, 139; convicted, 99; acquitted, 40. Of the number tried in 1869, 56 were arraigned of offences against the person; 65 of offences against property: in 1868, 48 were charged with offences against the person; 91 with offences against property.

Executions.

In each of the last two years there was one criminal executed.

Litigation.

The writs of summons issued by the Supreme Court in 1869 were 356; the civil cases tried, 28, being an increase of 7 and 13 respectively. Under "The Small Debts Act" the business of the Court somewhat decreased; the number of summonses issued being less by 8, and the number of cases tried less by 5, than in the previous year. The amount of litigation in the inferior Courts, in the years 1868 and 1869, is shown below.

Years.	Total Number of		Total Amount of		No. of Writs of Fi. Fa. Issued.
	Summonses Issued.	Cases Tried.	Claims Sued for.	Verdicts Obtained.	
			£ s. d.	£ s d.	
1868	1,737	881	10,008 5 $4\frac{3}{4}$	4,142 2 $4\frac{1}{2}$	249
1869	2,370	1,261	13,797 10 $8\frac{1}{2}$	6,381 15 0	365

Small debts.

The increase is probably due to the passing of an Act of last session, repealing a provision in "The Small Debts Act," whereby the officers of any Court were prohibited from preparing documents required by the Act, a provision which was found materially to impede its working.

Magisterial jurisdiction.

The offences dealt with by magistrates in the last two years were:—

Years.	Apprehended.	Appeared on Summons.	Cases not Proceeded with.	Discharged.	Convicted.	Committed for Trial.
1868	4,440	3,034	693	1,071	5,125	168
1869	4,447	2,859	609	1,235	4,956	154

The whole number of cases coming under the cognizance of magistrates is thus shown to have been, in 1868, 7,474; in 1869, 7,306; being a decrease of 168.

Probates, &c., granted.

The number of probates granted in 1869 was 62, against 67 in 1868; the value of the property being sworn under 65,091*l.*, against 173,606*l.* in 1868. Letters of administration were granted in 22 cases, against 19 in 1868, the value of the property being, in 1869, 18,866*l.*; in 1868, 20,250*l.*

Insolvencies.

In 1869, 7 persons declared themselves insolvent, and 68 were declared so by their creditors; in 1868 the numbers were 2 and 61 respectively. The aggregate amount of assets was, in 1869, 22,166*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*; in 1868, 32,270*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*: the aggregate liabilities were, in 1869, 159,572*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*; in 1868, 50,487*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*

Mortgages.

The number of mortgages registered in 1868 and 1869 under the old system was—

Year.	Number.	Amount.
		£ s. d.
1868	251	156,310 13 4
1869	269	145,690 3 7

Under the new, or Torrens Act, the number was—

Year.	Number.	Amount.
		£
1868	102	30,471
1869	101	35,412

Lands' titles office.

The return of business in the Lands' Titles Office shows a total of 506 transactions during the year 1869, the value of the property dealt with being 120,794*l.*, and the area 63,385a. 1r. 27$\frac{2}{10}$p. In 1868 the number of transactions was 584, the value 138,676*l.*, and the area 67,980a. 2r. 26$\frac{31}{40}$p.

Grant deeds.

The number of grant deeds enrolled in the Supreme Court was, in 1868, 434; in 1869, 419.

Inquests.

Inquests on persons were held in 1869 on 118 males and 40 females, being 12 less than in 1868.

VII.—*Education, Religion, &c.*

Public schools.

The returns relating to public schools in 1869 have been thrown into a more compendious form, and one better suited for statistical purposes than heretofore. They exhibit, compared with the return for 1868, the following results:—

Year.	No. of Distinct Scholars on the Rolls.	Average No. on Rolls.	Average Daily Attendance.	No. Entered during Year.	No. Left during Year.	Teachers and Assistant Teachers.	Pupil Teachers and Monitors.
1868	8,746	5,649	4,272	3,495	2,831	172	34
1869	9,316	5,992	4,511	3,872	2,688	187	31

The total expenditure was, in 1869, 11,564*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*; in 1868, 10,978*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* The amount received for school fees was, in 1869, 3,931*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*; in 1868, 3,905*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* The amount of Government aid for each scholar in daily attendance was, in 1869, 2*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*; in 1868, 2*l.* 11*s.* 10$\frac{1}{4}$*d.*

The state of education among the population generally has already been dealt with in speaking of the results of th elate census.

Besides the cost of the public schools, there were expended in 1869 the further sum of 987*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* by the Council of Education, and of 566*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* for school exhibitions.

Religion.

The religion of the people has been summarized in an earlier part of the present Report. The return showing the receipts and expenditure, and other particulars of the different Churches, also the Sunday-school return, have been omitted on this occasion, as it has in former years been found impossible to obtain from the various bodies full and correct information; and any difficulties which were then felt are now rendered very much greater by the passing of the State Aid Commutation Act, which has freed the State-paid Churches from all external control.

TASMANIA.

Friendly societies.

There were in 1869, 17 friendly societies which filed their returns as required by the Friendly Societies Act, and in 1868, 20 such societies. The number of members, receipts, &c., in those years, are shown below.

Year.	No. of Members at End of Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Capital of Societies.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1868	2,043	4,260 12 1¾	3,802 7 5¾	11,493 16 0¾
1869	1,385	3,442 13 6½	2,780 18 4¾	11,749 16 10½

VIII.—*Vital Statistics.*

Births.

In 1869 there were registered 2,859 births, of which 1,445 were males and 1,414 females. Compared with the previous year, there was a decrease of 131.

The birth-rate in 1869, calculated on the basis of the census of February last, which is the nearest approximation obtainable to the true population, was 28·78 per 1,000. The rate in 1868 was, according to the estimated population, 29·69, and in 1867, 30·18; but these were somewhat less than the true rates, if the population in those years were over-estimated, as it was found to be in 1869.

The proportion of male to female children born in 1869 was as 102·19 to 100, being less than in 1868 or 1867, when it was as 104·51 and 102·66 to 100, respectively.

Deaths.

The deaths in 1869 (including three which occurred beyond the limits of the Colony) were 1,335, of which 831 were males and 504 females. Six convicts died at Port Arthur, and one criminal was executed, making the true total 1,442, which is at the rate of 14·52 per 1,000 of the population by the last census. In 1868, the death-rate was calculated to be 14·61; in 1857, 14·36 per 1,000. Making allowance for excess in the estimated population, the death-rate was about the same as in 1868. The deaths of males were to the deaths of females in the ratio of 164·88 to 100; having been 154·5 in 1868.

I have not leisure to analyze these returns more fully, and must touch upon those that remain as briefly as possible.

Meteorology.

Observations taken at Hobart Town showed that the mean height of the barometer in 1869 was 29·875, or 0·068 above the average for 25 years; the mean temperature 56·10, or 1·65 above the average; the mean diurnal range 17·88, or 0·02 in excess; the mean solar intensity 93·42, or 0·43 in excess; the mean terrestrial radiation 43·84, or 0·98 in excess; mean dew point, 45·85, or 0·40 above the average; humidity of the air 0·72, or 0·03 below it; elastic force of vapour 0·325, or 0·01 in excess. The total rain-fall was 23·87 inches, or 1·22 inches above the average; the number of days on which rain fell being 130, or 15·27 below the average. Ozone showed a mean of 7·20, or 0·02 in excess. The north-westerly wind prevailed through ten months in the year (somewhat more than the average), and the total wind-force was 521·66 lbs., giving a monthly average of 43·47 lbs., or 19·51 lbs. below the mean for the 25 years.

Diseases and deaths in charitable institutions.

In the hospitals (not including that for the insane) 1,620 cases of disease were treated in 1869, the deaths being 157, or in the proportion of 9·69 per cent. Calculated on the "admissions," the proportion would be 12·04 per cent. In 1868 the number of cases was 1,894, and of deaths 200, or 10·56 per cent. At the Queen's Asylum there were two deaths —the only ones in four years.

Marriages.

The number of marriages in 1869 was 651, against 654 in 1868; the rate per 1,000 being, in 1869, 6·55; in 1868, 6·49.

Vaccinations.

The returns of vaccination performed in 1869 by the medical officers of the different hospitals and of the Queen's Asylum show that the operation was performed upon 937 persons, 515 cases being reported to have been entirely successful. In the preceding year only 95 persons were vaccinated. The increase in 1869 was caused by the introduction of small-pox into Melbourne at the beginning of the year.

IX.—*Miscellaneous.*

Political franchise.

The only returns under this division which require any notice are those relating to the franchise.

An alteration has been made in the mode of compiling the present returns, with a view to ensure greater accuracy. The Courts of Revision being held in January or February of each year, I have thought it better to embody the results of the last settlement of the Rolls, even though it may not take place until the beginning of the year following that with which each volume purports to deal, than to continue to adhere to an arrangement

which, though more strictly in accordance with method, experience has proved to fail in obtaining thoroughly correct information.

The number of electors for the Legislative Council on the rolls before the last revision was 2,123: 179 were struck off on account of death and other causes, and 147 were added; leaving 2,091 electors qualified to vote in the present year.

For the House of Assembly, the number of electors was, before the revision, 11,394; struck off, 1,821; added, 1,598; leaving 11,171 on the rolls as revised. The number of males of the age of 20 and upwards (the age of a qualified elector being 21, there will be an excess of those between 20 and 21), is shown by the census to be 27,189, from which it follows that 41·09 per cent. of the males of this age are qualified to vote for the House of Assembly.

Each member of the House of Assembly represents 372 electors, or 3,311 units of population; each member of the Legislative Council represents 139 electors, or 6,622 units of population.

To sum up the results of the returns now before us: the import trade improved; the export, in the face of the low price of wool, and the embarrassing system of Customs duties now in vogue in all these Colonies, did not decline, and in some cases sensibly increased; a larger amount of shipping entered our ports; an increased quantity of coal was raised; the cost of the necessaries of life fell less heavily on the consumer; the Public Treasury was enabled to meet its engagements without difficulty, and investors showed their confidence in the soundness of our credit by giving a higher price for our Public Securities; the business of the banks increased; new facilities of commercial intercourse with the Australian continent were afforded by the laying down of the telegraphic cable across the Straits; the Launceston and Western Railway was advancing towards completion; discoveries of precious metals were made over a large extent of country; the state of agriculture showed some improvement; and the social condition of the people, so far as it is indicated by the statistics of crime, was satisfactory. But, on the other hand, the Colony was suffering from the want of that which is the life-blood of a nation—labour, of sufficient quantity and of suitable quality—and manufactures, in consequence, did not advance; notwithstanding the existence of a law rendering education compulsory, only one-half of the children were receiving school instruction, but a very small proportion of the other half, it is to be feared, being trained in any industrial pursuit; the settlement of the lands languished; and the revenue from the Crown estate continued to decline.

While, therefore, there is something on which to congratulate ourselves, there is also much need of strenuous exertion and prudent enterprise on the part of the people, and of adopting every available means for promoting the improvement of the material and social condition of the Colony.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. C. NOWELL,
Government Statistician.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 17.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 17.

REPORT to the Honourable WILLIAM MILNE, M.L.C., Chief Secretary, &c., &c., &c.

SIR, Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, December 15, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to submit the "Statistical Register of South Australia for "1869," and to present the following Report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, summarizing the principal facts bearing upon the social and material condition of the Colony, as exhibited by the statistical records of the past year.

Population.

The estimated population on 31st December, 1869, based upon the registration of births and deaths, and the Customs' records of the arrivals and departures by sea, was 181,146, or an addition during the year of 4,848 persons, as compared with an increase of 3,438 persons in the preceding twelve months. The male population numbered 93,860, and the female 87,286, showing an augmentation in the former of 2,513, and of 2,335 in the latter. The natural increase was 4,765 souls—2,369 males and 2,396 females; or very little above that of 1868, when the excess of births over deaths amounted to 4,731 souls—2,328 males and 2,403 females. Since the cessation of State assisted immigration, the population has been practically only recruited from natural sources, being for the past year at the rate of 2·7 per cent. only. In 1868, the departures exceeded the arrivals (by sea) by 1,293 persons (927 males and 321 females); this year, the arrivals exceed the departures by 83 persons. The male arrivals exceeded the departures by 144, whilst the number of females leaving the Colony in excess of those arriving, was 61; showing a balance of 83 persons as above stated. The total augmentation of the population was at the rate of 2·75 per cent. upon the number living at the commencement of the year. For several years previously the annual increase has been at the rate of 5 per cent.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

Six thousand nine hundred and seventy-six births were registered in 1869, or 271 less than in the preceding twelve months; the birth-rate being 40 per thousand of the population living at the beginning of the year, or 5 per thousand below that existing a few years ago. The male births amounted to 3,652 and the female to 3,324, as against 3,709 and 3,538 respectively.

Fewer deaths occurred in 1869 than in any year since 1863, the rate of mortality being 12·5 per thousand, the lowest recorded with one exception (1865). The total deaths numbered 2,211 (males 1,283 and 927 females), showing a decrease of 305 upon the year 1868, when the death-rate was 14·5 per thousand—that of 1867 having been 17·4 per thousand. The principal decrease appears in deaths resulting from scarlatina, whooping cough, diphtheria, and convulsions.

Of the total mortality, 55 per cent. were deaths of children under five years of age—numbering 1,195, as compared with 1,474 last year.

Fewer deaths of infants under two years were recorded—the number being reduced from 1,290 to 1,038, or one-fifth.

The natural increase of the population amounted to 4,765 souls, or only 34 more than in the previous year, and being 2·7 per cent. on the number living at the commencement of the year.

Twelve hundred and eleven marriages were celebrated, or 75 less than in 1868, and fewer than in any year since 1863.

Public Worship.

From returns supplied by the several religious denominations it appears, that the provision made for public worship continues to increase; twenty-one additional churches and chapels having been added during the year. The total number of places of worship is returned at 765, with accommodation for 118,462 persons, as compared with 754 and 112,878 sittings last year. Of this number 568 were churches or chapels, the remaining 197 being rooms temporarily used for religious services, and which are rapidly being

superseded by appropriate edifices. The following particulars afford means of comparing the progress made in this direction during the three past years:—

	1867.	1868.	1869.
Number of churches or chapels -	511	547	568
„ sittings in ditto -	98,496	103,488	110,067
„ rooms used, &c. -	186	207	197
„ sittings in ditto -	7,245	9,390	8,395
Total number of places of worship	697	754	765
„ sittings provided	105,741	112,878	118,462
Sunday schools - - -	416	446	469
Sunday-school teachers - -	3,961	4,150	4,572
Sunday scholars - -	26,506	28,719	30,580

Twenty-three additional Sunday schools have been opened, making 469 in all—with 4,572 teachers (2,267 males and 2,305 females); and 30,580 Sunday scholars, of whom 15,059 were boys and 15,521 were girls.

Education.

The Central Board of Education furnish returns of the number of, and attendance at, licensed schools, of which there are 330 under the superintendence of 225 schoolmasters and 103 schoolmistresses; showing an increase of five schools over the number returned in the previous year. The total number of children on the roll was 16,328—9,031 boys, and 7,297 girls; or an addition of 671 scholars. The average number on the roll of each school was 49·4 as against 48 in 1868. The average number of scholars attending, 13,220, or 1,078 more than in the preceding year; the proportion of children in daily attendance being 80·9 per cent. of the gross number on the roll, being 3·4 greater than in the preceding twelve months. Out of 13,220 scholars, only 1,191 were attending City licensed schools, 1,292 at schools in other municipalities, and the remaining 10,737 in suburban and country districts. The ages of the scholars attending are classified as follows:—under seven years, one fourth; between seven and ten years, one half; and the remaining fourth, eleven years of age and upwards. There are now held in trust for educational purposes, eighty-two school-houses, which have been erected under the Board's supervision, and towards which the sum of 15,304*l.* has been granted. Each District Council has now its public school-house.

The amount expended by the Board in teachers' stipends was 17,386*l.*; and the sum paid in fees by parents was 14,826*l.*; together, 32,212*l.*—being 23*s.* 3*d.* from the State for each scholar on the rolls, and 18*s.* 2*d.* per head, from the parents of the children.

During the past decade, the State has provided 197,697*l.* for educational purposes; the expenditure of the last year being 25,591*l.*—and the average, for the whole period, 19,769*l.* per annum.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Considerable improvement is exhibited in the state of the public finances as compared with the accounts of the previous year, the revenue being increased from 716,004*l.* to 777,351*l.*, or by 61,347*l.*; whilst the expenditure has decreased from 852,689*l.* to 802,251*l.*, or by 50,438*l.* Nearly all the items of revenue show increases upon those of 1868; but the principal augmentation was in the receipts of the railway, and from the Customs—the former amounting to 91,478*l.* as compared with 84,611*l.*, and the latter 223,452*l.* against 198,531*l.* in the preceding twelve months. The proceeds of the sales of Crown Lands also increased from 224,490*l.* to 227,271*l.*; and the Land Revenue from 77,797*l.* to 91,450*l.* Minor branches of receipt show such augmentations as are indicative of the general progress of the community.

During 1869 the average contribution of each individual towards the support of the Government, in the shape of taxation through the Customs was 24*s.* 9*d.* as compared with 22*s.* 6*d.* in 1868, 23*s.* 3*d.* in 1867, 27*s.* 2*d.* in 1866, and 30*s.* in the year 1865.

As above stated, the aggregate payments of the year were 50,438*l.* below those of 1868; the reduction, however, would have been greater by 36,042*l.* had not that additional sum been required for the extinction of bonds falling due: the payments on account of the Public Debt amounting to 149,144*l.* as against 113,102*l.* in the previous year. Under all other heads of service reductions appear, which would, but for the

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

exceptional circumstance above referred to, have brought the expenditure of the year within the amount of the accruing revenue.

During the past ten years the gross public income (exclusive of loans for public works) has amounted to 7,202,213*l.*—the ordinary revenue contributing 4,602,111*l.* of which 1,816,168*l.* represented taxes, and 2,785,943*l.* receipts from general sources; and the land fund 2,600,101*l.* sterling.

During the same period the total public expenditure has amounted to 7,329,922*l.*, out of which 2,948,350*l.* has been spent on public works (exclusive of 1,329,470*l.* defrayed from loans), and 254,711*l.* upon immigration—together 3,203,061*l.*, or 602,960*l.* more than the land fund produced during those years.

Loans for Public Works.

The public debt amounted at the close of 1869 to the sum of 1,783,700*l.* Bonds representing 2,219,400*l.* have been issued since the first loan was contracted, of which sum 435,700*l.* has been redeemed. The total amount authorized by Parliament to be raised is 2,694,500*l.*, leaving bonds of 475,100*l.* value yet to be issued.

Banking.

Half-yearly returns of the average liabilities and assets of the several banking institutions carrying on business in this Colony have been issued in pursuance of Act of Parliament. The following is a comparative statemennt of the aggregate assets and liabilities set forth in the returns for the half years ending December, 1867, 1868, and 1869, respectively :—

LIABILITIES.

	1867.			1868.			1869.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Notes in circulation	247,786	4	1	225,708	11	1	241,305	17	9
Bills in circulation	10,332	17	1	11,793	19	0	8,730	1	11
Balances due to other banks	39,600	18	9	18,272	13	9	39,845	2	5
Deposits	1,272,164	10	9	1,293,420	1	0	1,406,979	18	11
Total average liabilities	£1,569,884	10	8	£1,549,195	4	10	£1,696,861	1	0

ASSETS.

	1687.			1868.			1869.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Coin and bullion	378,265	17	3	333,224	0	5	378,953	15	3
Government securities	38,850	14	10	25,000	0	0	73,653	17	0
Landed property and bank premises	99,745	8	1	102,088	10	1	105,493	2	4
Notes and bills of other banks	17,367	7	2	32,979	1	3	19,638	16	7
Balances due from other banks	74,441	9	8	71,031	12	5	70,703	3	6
Notes and bills discounted and other debts due to banks not enumerated	2,559,742	14	1	2,669,886	7	8	2,829,722	13	4
Total average assests	£3,168,413	11	1	£3,234,209	11	10	£3,478,165	8	0

Comparing the several items in the above return, steady, if not rapid, progress will be observed, indicating improved confidence. The deposits have increased from 1,272,164*l.* to 1,406,979*l.*, and the notes and bills discounted from 2,559,742*l.* to 2,829,722*l.* The aggregate liabilities were 1,696,861*l.* as against 1,569,884*l.*, and the aggregate assets have increased from 3,168,413*l.* to 3,478,165*l.* sterling, during the period referred to.

Savings Bank.

The returns from this institution exhibit marked advancement, and show yearly increasing support, both in number of depositors and amount of business. The number of depositors is now 11,407, an increase of 1,748; and 3,485 new accounts were opened as compared with 2,784 in the year preceding. The total amount deposited was 211,826*l.*

as against 170,556*l.*; and the total sum to the credit of the several depositors, including interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, was 382,284*l.*, or 69,556*l.* additional. The amount withdrawn during the year was 161,682*l.* as compared with 147,660*l.* in the previous twelve months. The following table shows the rapid advance made during the past five years, and the magnitude of its operations:—

	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
New accounts opened - -	2,333	2,135	2,321	2,784	3,485
Increase in depositors - -	1,233	603	1,004	976	1,748
	£	£	£	£	£
Amount deposited - -	131,115	124,427	145,207	170,566	211,826
„ withdrawn - -	115,751	147,524	133,848	147,660	161,682
„ depositors' balances -	258,693	249,329	274,508	312,728	382,284
„ reserve fund - -	15,378	17,370	19,587	21,147	23,002
„ total funds - -	274,071	266,700	294,095	333,875	405,286

It will be noted that the total funds of the institution amount to 405,286*l.* in comparison with 274,071*l.* in the year 1865, and that the reserved fund has increased during the same period from 15,378*l.* to 23,002*l.* The amount lent on mortgage of freehold property, at 7 per cent. interest, is 233,411*l.*, and the sum of 25,000*l.* is invested in Government securities.

Imports and Exports.

During 1869 the combined import and export trade amounted to the sum of 5,747,805*l.*, showing an increase of 689,995*l.* over the returns of the previous year, and being, with the exception of the year 1865, the highest amount yet reached. The chief increase was in the import trade, which amounted to 2,754,770*l.* as against 2,238,510*l.*, or an addition of 516,250*l.* The aggregate exports amounted to 2,993,035*l.* as compared with 2,819,300*l.*, or an increase of 173,735*l.* The balance of trade in favour of the Colony was 238,264*l.* Produce of South Australia was exported to the value of 2,722,438*l.*, and imports to the amount of 2,484,174*l.* were retained for home consumption.

The following statement shows the combined import and export trade for each year since 1860, inclusive, the total imports, the imports retained for home consumption, the imports, re-exported, the aggregate exports, the value of staple produce exported, and the difference between the latter and the value of imports consumed in the province.

Year.	Combined Import and Export Trade.	Total Imports.	Imports retained for Home Consumption.	Imports re-exported.	Total Exports.	Exports of Produce of the Colony.	Balance Produce exported over Imports consumed.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1860 - -	3,423,307	1,639,591	1,432,201	207,390	1,783,716	1,576,326	144,125
1861 - -	4,008,329	1,976,018	1,782,346	193,672	2,032,311	1,838,639	56,293
1862 - -	3,966,452	1,820,656	1,595,347	225,309	2,145,796	1,920,487	325,140
1863 - -	4,387,096	2,028,279	1,764,818	263,461	2,358,817	2,095,356	330,538
1864 - -	5,718,476	2,412,931	2,122,923	290,008	3,305,545	3,015,537	892,614
1865 - -	6,057,442	2,927,596	2,552,407	375,189	3,129,846	2,754,657	202,250
1866 - -	5,693,879	2,835,142	2,516,128	319,014	2,858,737	2,539,723	23,595
1867 - -	5,671,016	2,506,394	2,117,867	388,527	3,164,622	2,776,095	658,228
1868 - -	5,057,810	2,238,510	2,023,036	215,474	2,819,300	2,603,826	580,790
1869 - -	5,747,805	2,754,770	2,484,174	270,596	2,993,035	2,722,438	238,264

Trade with the United Kingdom amounted to 2,993,896*l.*, as against 2,837,249*l.* Of this amount 1,630,761*l.* represented imports, or an increase of 219,253*l.*, and 1,363,135*l.* exports thereto, showing a decrease of 62,606*l.* upon the returns for the previous year. The imports from, exceeded our exports to, the mother country, by 267,625*l.* sterling, as compared with 14,232*l.* in the year preceding.

Intercolonial business shows a recovery from the depression of the previous year. With Victoria the combined import and export trade amounted to 1,188,513*l.*, as compared with 1,027,340*l.*, showing an increase of 161,173*l.* The balance of trade was in favour of this Colony by 319,173*l.* The imports from Melbourne amounted to 434,670*l.*, as against 334,876*l.*, an increase of 99,794*l.*; and the exports thereto to 753,843*l.* as against 692,463*l.*, or 61,380*l.* additional.

Transactions with New South Wales were also of great magnitude; the combined trade amounted to 761,972*l.*, as against 525,812*l.*, or an increase of 236,160*l.* The imports thence advanced from 176,618*l.* to 301,006*l.*, or by 124,388*l.*, and the exports

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thereto from 349,194*l.*, to 460,966*l.* or an addition of 111,772*l.* upon the preceding year, the balance of trade in favour of South Australia amounting to 159,959*l.* Of the above imports, wool, &c., of the value of 209,953*l.* came down the Murray for transshipment, as compared with 86,121*l.* in the previous year; goods valued at 81,309*l.* being returned by that route, in place of 70,147*l.*, in the preceding twelve months.

Exports to Queensland, principally breadstuffs, increased 50 per cent., reaching 162,565*l.*, in lieu of 107,193*l.*; those to New Zealand advanced from 24,039*l.* to 62,821*l.*

New Caledonia appears as a purchaser of breadstuffs to the extent of 8,910*l.*

Tasmanian produce was imported to the sum of 26,066*l.* as against 22,556*l.*, the year before.

The Western Australian trade has also progressed. The aggregate transactions amounting to 97,212*l.*, as compared with 86,184*l.* The imports thence amounted to 44,679*l.* (including 23,000*l.* bullion), as against 46,157*l.* (including 24,508*l.* specie). The exports to 52,533*l.*, as against 40,027*l.* Wool of the value of 11,452*l.* was brought here for transshipment, as against 12,448*l.* in 1868.

Shipments to India and the Cape declined. The former only taking 57,821*l.* as against 73,409*l.*; and the latter 7,374*l.* as against 31,159*l.*, copper and breadstuffs respectively. Imports from China advanced from 67,334*l.* to 89,846*l.*; whilst exports to Batavia fell from 4,934*l.* to 1,443*l.*

The Mauritius trade shows a considerable increase; the imports thence amounting to 135,522*l.* as compared with 114,438*l.*, and the exports thereto, to 51,354*l.* (including 33,000*l.* specie), as against 63,005*l.*, of which 46,000*l.* was bullion.

Swedish timber of the value of 42,460*l.* arrived, as against 31,979*l.* during the previous year; and imports valued at 18,321*l.* from the United States.

Bullion and coin to the sum of 91,500*l.* was imported, or 26,992*l.* more than last year. The exports of specie amounted to 33,020*l.* (as against 46,000*l.*), showing a balance of 45,500*l.* retained in the Colony. Precious metals, the produce of South Australia, were also shipped as follows:—gold, 4,029 oz., as against 773½ oz., values 15,593*l.* and 2,936*l.* respectively. Silver, 3,000 oz., value 600*l.*, as against 1,140 oz., value 285*l.*

Exports, the Produce of the Colony.

In continuation of similar returns previously supplied I append the following statements, illustrating the progress made in the principal branches of industry during the past decade. The first table subjoined gives the total value of the Colonial produce exported, and of the three principal staples, in the years 1860, 1864, and 1869 respectively, the commencement, middle, and termination of the first decade; also the aggregate value of such exports during the quinquennial periods ending 1864 and 1869; together with the average annual shipments in the same periods, and the proportion which the shipments of agricultural, pastoral, and mineral products respectively bore to the total shipments:—

Period.	Total Exports of Produce.	Of which Exports.			
		Breadstuffs, Grain, &c.	Wool.	Copper and other minerals.	Miscellaneous Products.
	£	£	£	£	£
In the year 1860 - - -	1,576,326	499,102	573,368	446,537	57,319
„ 1864 - - -	3,015,537	1,464,593	775,656	691,624	83,664
„ 1869 - - -	2,722,438	890,343	1,008,669	627,152	196,274
Total in five years, 1860–64 - -	10,446,346	4,056,841	3,323,236	2,680,345	385,924
„ 1865–69 -	13,396,739	4,369,800	5,045,136	3,449,200	532,603
Average of five years, 1860–64 -	2,089,269	811,368	664,647	536,069	77,185
„ 1865–69 -	2,679,348	873,960	1,009,027	689,840	106,521
Rate per cent. of average exports of 1860–64 - - - -	100·0	38·8	31·8	25·7	3·7
Rate per cent. of average exports of 1865–69 - - -	100·0	32·7	37·7	25·7	3·9

From the above it will be seen that the total exports of produce during the past ten years has reached little short of 24 millions sterling; and that whilst in the first half of that period the exports averaged two millions, during the latter half the average shipments exceeded two and a half millions sterling per annum.

The following statement shows as closely as possible the relative value of wheat, wool, and copper, as compared with the total exports of produce:—

Five Years, ending with	Ratio of Average of Five Years' Exports of each Class to Total Exports = 100.			
	Breadstuffs.	Wool.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
1860	38·2	31·6	27·6	2·6
1861	32·0	32·5	26·7	2·8
1862	35·5	33·4	27·2	3·9
1863	35·2	33·9	27·0	3·9
1864	38·8	31·8	25·7	3·7
1865	41·2	30·8	24·5	3·5
1866	38·3	31·9	26·2	3·6
1867	38·8	32·1	26·0	3·1
1868	36·2	35·2	25·6	3·0
1869	32·7	37·7	25·7	3·9

Taking the average of the five years terminating with 1864, the value of breadstuffs formed 38·8, wool 31·8, copper 25·7, and miscellaneous articles 3·7 per cent. of the total exports. Taking the like average for the similar period ending in 1869, we find breadstuffs contributed 32·7, wool 37·7, copper 25·7, and miscellaneous articles 3·9 per cent. of the gross produce.

Breadstuffs, Grain, &c.

Although the average yield of the harvest 1868–9 was only 9 bushels 40 lbs. to the acre, or one-fourth below the usual average of 12 bushels, we were enabled to ship 73,325 tons of breadstuffs during the course of the year. Owing to the failure of the harvest of the previous season from red rust, only 33,520 tons were exported in 1868. During 1867 we had shipped 97,000 tons.

The following table shows the results of the harvest in each of the past five years, and the quantity and value of breadstuffs exported:—

Year.	Acres under Wheat.	Wheat Harvest.	Average yield per Acre.	Flour and Wheat shipped.	Average price. Wheat, ℔ bushel.	Total value Breadstuffs Grain, &c., shipped.
		Bushels.	Bs. lbs.	Tons.	s. d.	£
1865	390,836	4,252,949	11 0	60,513	8 7	1,228,480
1866	410,608	3,587,800	8 44	38,808	6 2	645,401
1867	457,628	6,561,451	14 20	97,311	4 5	1,037,085
1868	550,456	2,579,894	4 20	33,520	7 1	568,491
1869	533,035	5,173,970	9 42	73,325	5 0	890,343

The principal customers for wheat and flour were New South Wales and Queensland, the former taking 11,917 tons flour and 87,258 qrs. of wheat; the latter Colony purchasing 11,982 tons flour, or twice the quantity of the previous year. To Great Britain, 2,023 tons of flour and 30,845 qrs. of wheat were shipped, and 6,645 tons flour and 55,961 tons wheat to Victoria. New Caledonia appears for the first time as a customer, namely, for 740 tons flour; New Zealand took 2,159 tons flour, and Western Anstralia, 1,192 tons, both being considerably in advance of the previous season's shipments.

The following gives the export of breadstuffs in 1860, 1864, and 1869; also the total exports for the quinquennial periods ending 1864 and 1869, and the average yearly shipments during those periods:—

Period.	Flour.	Wheat.	Total in Flour, at 45 bushels to ton.	Bran and Pollard.
	Tons.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
In the year 1860	21,166	238,984	26,476	3,352
„ 1864	41,817	1,563,080	76,552	8,209
„ 1869	38,653	1,560,248	73,325	2,847
Total in five years, 1860–64	171,320	4,105,456	262,552	30,468
„ 1865–69	174,694	5,795,416	303,481	15,387
Average of five years, 1860–64	34,264	821,091	52,510	6,093
„ 1865–69	34,934	1,159,083	60,696	3,077

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During the five years ended 1864 our average annual export of breadstuffs was 52,510 tons; during the last five years it reached 60,696 tons. This increase being incommensurate with the additional area cultivated it is necessary to point out that the last five harvests have been unusually unfavourable, only averaging 9⅔ bushels to the acre against an average of 12 bushels during the preceding quinquennial period, comprising a cycle of good seasons.

Wool.

Eighty-seven thousand bales of wool were shipped in 1869; the total quantity exported being 30,532,812 lbs., as compared with 29,629,525 lbs. in 86,913 bales, during the previous year. Of the above, 9,293 bales, weighing 3,510,141 lbs., constituted the quantity of wool transshipped as against 2,284 bales, 730,335 lbs., the produce of the neighbouring Colonies, passed through our ports during the preceding twelve months.

The subjoined statement gives the quantity shipped from each port during the past three years, together with the declared value, distinguishing South Australian wool from that of other Colonies.

Year ended 31st December.	1867.	1868.	1869.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
From Port Adelaide	12,948,653	18,845,487	18,972,428
Port Wakefield	1,138,200	1,763,450	—
Port Robe	1,625,200	1,793,289	1,477,990
Port Augusta	2,329,515	4,210,307	4,825,394
Port MacDonnell	1,059,285	1,927,369	1,693,108
Port Caroline	249,442	359,288	53,751
Total Export of South Australian wool	19,350,195	28,899,190	27,022,671
Produce of other Colonies	3,283,597	730,335	3,510,141
Total shipment (lbs.)	22,633,792	29,629,525	30,532,812
Total shipment (bales)	66,395	86,913	87,150
	£	£	£
Total value of South Australian wool	919,532	1,305,280	1,008,669
Total value of other wool	224,809	41,043	118,899
Total value	1,144,341	1,346,323	1,127,568

Of the total shipments, 71,733 bales left our ports direct for London, 14,988 bales were forwarded to Melbourne for transshipment, and 429 bales were shipped to the United States. In the preceding year 71,056 bales went direct home, and 15,857 by way of Melbourne.

With a view of estimating more accurately the yearly progress of our wool trade, it is necessary to compare the shipments made from July to June in each each, as the wool season being at its busiest at the termination of the year it is often a matter of chance in which year the shipments are returned; to correct this error the following table, showing the shipments of each clip during the past five years, has been prepared, and exhibits very clearly the rapid development in the production of the staple during that period:—

Year ended 30th June.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Port Adelaide	9,277,556	11,448,696	16,405,079	17,236,166	19,032,047
„ Wakefield	2,981,078	2,301,826	1,573,750	1,327,900	—
„ Robe	1,736,460	1,639,400	1,480,480	1,771,699	1,900,080
„ MacDonnell	800,790	1,468,772	1,626,097	1,486,949	1,871,717
„ Wallaroo	77,507	—	—	—	—
„ Augusta	998,315	857,188	2,570,915	3,968,907	5,166,083
„ Victor or Port Elliot	179,800	—	—	—	—
„ Caroline	72,383	289,229	370,348	197,314	—
Total weight (lbs.)	16,123,889	18,005,111	24,026,669	25,988,935	27,969,927

Satisfactory as are the above figures, as showing the growth of the pastoral interest of late years, it will be useful to glance at its position ten years ago, and note the remarkable increase in production since 1860.

The following table gives the quantity and value of South Australian wool shipped in 1860, 1864, and 1869; also during the quinquennial periods terminating in the years 1864 and 1869, and the average annual shipments of those periods :—

Period.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£
In the year 1860 - - -	11,731,371	573,368
„ 1864 - - -	16,092,095	775,656
„ 1869 - - -	27,022,671	1,008,669
Total in five years, 1860–4 - -	69,783,653	3,323,236
„ 1865–9 -	111,281,469	5,045,136
Average of five years, 1860–4 -	13,956,730	664,647
„ 1865–9 -	22,256,294	1,009,027

It will be observed that in 1860 the export of this staple amounted to 11,731,371 lbs., that in 1864 it had increased to 16,092,095 lbs., and in 1869 to 27,022,671 lbs., showing additions during the intervening periods of 44 per cent. and 70 per cent. respectively. During the 10 years the increase in production has been 140 per cent. No local industry has been so permanently progressive as wool growing, and when it is considered that the wool alone has during the past 10 years realized as much money as the whole of our shipments of wheat and flour during the same period, its importance as a source of wealth cannot be too highly esteemed.

Minerals.

During the past 10 years the total value of mineral produce exported amounted to over six millions sterling. In the first half of the decade the mineral exports amounted to 2,680,345*l.*, showing an average of 536,069*l.*, whilst during the last half the aggregate shipments reached 3,449,200*l.*, or on annual average of 689,840*l.* sterling. The latter figures would have been greater but for the continued depression in the copper market. Subjoined are the quantities and values of ores and metals exported during the latter period :—

Minerals.		1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.
Fine Copper - -	Cwts.	100,196	129,272	156,863	104,227	92,788
	£	433,795	584,509	627,384	400,691	371,566
Copper Ore - - -	Tons.	16,176	16,824	11,430	20,725	26,835
	£	184,677	225,683	113,409	207,519	250,259
Lead - - -	Cwts.	82	1,351	3,391	3,049	2,936
	£	133	2,991	5,464	5,670	4,471
Lead Ore - - -	Tons.	86	648	212	76	24
	£	1,507	11,318	3,353	1,245	296
Regulus - - -	Tons.	—	—	25	10	—
	£	—	—	560	213	—
Total value (including other minerals) - - -		620,112	824,501	753,413	624,022	627,152

The decreased proportion of fine copper produced in comparison with shipments of ore observable during the last two years, is owing to the establishment of branch smelting-works at Newcastle, New South Wales, in connection with those at Wallaroo, return freights for coal-laden vessels being thus secured. The imports of coal amounted to 62,022 tons as against 67,109 tons in 1868. The following statement more truly shows

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the progress of mining industry during the past 10 years, by returning the "quantity" of produce raised and shipped:—

Period.	Copper.	Lead.	Copper Ore.	Lead Ore.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Tons.	Tons.
In the year 1860 - - -	65,429	1,824	7,097	68
„ 1864 - - -	134,055	63	4,545	566
„ 1869 - - -	92,788	2,936	26,835	24
Total in five years, 1860–4 - -	442,442	3,840	31,018	1,198
„ 1865–9 -	583,346	10,809	91,990	1,046
Average of five years, 1860–4 -	88,488	768	6,204	240
„ 1865–9 -	116,669	2,162	18,398	209

It will be found that during the quinquennial period ending 1864, the quantity of fine copper exported was 442,442 cwts., and of copper ore 31,018 tons, giving a yearly average of 88,488 cwts. of copper, and of 6,204 tons of ore. In the following five years the shipments of fine copper had risen to 583,346 cwts., or 116,669 cwts. yearly, and of ore to 91,990 tons, or 18,398 tons annually.

Land Cultivation and Live Stock.

The following extracts from my Report on the Agricultural and Live Stock statistics for the season ended 31st March last, supply full information on these subjects to the latest date:—

"During 1869 the area of land alienated from the crown amounted to 182,291 acres, making the aggregate area in possession of freeholders to be 3,952,188 acres. In addition to the above, 40,759 acres were sold to the public on credit under the provisions of the new Act. The total area of land alienated is therefore 3,992,947 acres, showing 22 acres for each individual of the population. Ten years ago the proportion was seventeen and three-quarter acres, or four and a quarter acres per head less. About two thirds of the alienated land is in the occupation of the holders of the fee-simple.

"Following upon two successive seasons so disastrous as those of the red rust and drought, it is remarkable to find that, instead of land going out of cultivation, there is, on the contrary, a large increase in the extent under tillage. The area cultivated is returned as 850,576 acres as against 808,234 acres, or an increase of 42,342 acres over the preceding season, amounting to more than 5 per cent. One in five acres, or the same proportion as in the previous year, was the ratio of cultivated to purchased land. Last year four and three-quarter acres of land were under tillage for each individual of the population, or fourteen acres for each male of 14 years of age and upwards; the like proportion has been maintained during the past season.

"The enclosure of pastoral land progresses rapidly, the total area being 6,706,340 acres, whilst in 1868 there were only 5,641,472 acres enclosed—showing an additional 1,064,868 acres during the year. Deducting the cultivated land, 850,576 acres, from the total enclosed, shows 5,855,764 acres of fenced pasturage.

"Apprehension of the result of the protracted drought on the grain crops having induced farmers to cut large areas of wheat for hay, notwithstanding the known deficiency in the quantity of straw, a small decrease of 900 acres appears in the acreage of wheat—the aggregate reaped being 532,135 acres. Sixty-three out of every hundred acres under cultivation were under wheat. Throughout the history of the Colony on one occasion only—the year of red rust—has the harvest yielded so low an average. The quantity reaped was only 5 bushels 45 lbs. per acre, or but 1 bushel 15 lbs. more than that of the red rust harvest. The yield of 1868–9 was 9 bushels and 42 lbs., or 3 bushels 57 lbs. more than this season. Severe and unprecedented drought—the total rainfall of the year 1869 having reached only 14·7 inches, or 7·5 inches below the average—is sufficient explanation of the failure of the crop. The annexed statement shows the total area of land under cultivation, the acreage under wheat, the gross produce of the harvest, and the average yield per acre for each season since 1858–9:—

Season.	Acres cultivated.	Acres under Wheat.	Produce, Wheat.	Average per Acre.
			Bushels.	Bush. lbs.
1858–9 - -	264,462	188,703	2,109,544	11 11
1859–60 - -	361,884	218,216	2,103,411	9 38
1860–1 - -	428,816	273,672	3,576,593	13 4
1861–2 - -	486,667	310,636	3,410,756	10 59
1862–3 - -	494,511	320,160	3,841,824	12 0
1863–4 - -	555,968	335,758	4,691,919	14 0
1864–5 - -	587,775	390,836	4,252,949	11 0
1865–6 - -	660,569	410,608	3,587,800	8 44
1866–7 - -	739,714	457,628	6,561,451	14 20
1867–8 - -	810,734	550,456	2,579,894	4 40
1868–9 - -	808,234	533,035	5,173,970	9 42
1869–70 - -	850,576	532,135	3,052,320	5 45

"From the above table it will be gathered that three bad harvests have followed in succession—the yields of wheat being respectively $4\frac{2}{3}$, $9\frac{2}{3}$, and $5\frac{2}{3}$ bushels, showing an average for the three seasons of $6\frac{2}{3}$ bushels only, manifestly insufficient to remunerate the grower, being only one-half of the ordinary production. The extent of the depression prevailing among all classes, and especially amongst agriculturists and landed proprietors, can be realized when it is considered that the actual money lost to the country by the failure of the three past harvests may be reasonably computed at two millions sterling.

"Although, as previously stated, a large quantity of wheat was cut for hay, the aggregate crop was greatly deficient, owing to the severity of the drought. The total area of hay mown in 1869 was 141,899 acres or 35,255 acres increase upon the previous season. Notwithstanding, the total yield was only 108,107 tons, as against 113,167 tons, showing an average of only 15 cwt., as compared with 21 cwt. in 1868. The last crop was 50,000 tons below the ordinary rate of consumption; and the high prices for fodder, ruling in consequence, must have borne heavily upon keepers of stock.

"Barley was grown to nearly the same extent as last season, when an increase of 50 per cent. was recorded; the yield, however, in common with other crops, being greatly deficient. The area sown was 20,114 acres—or 1,130 acres less; and the total produce amounted to only 180,807 bushels—or a decrease of 130,335 bushels; the average yield being only 8 bushels 49 lbs., as compared with 14 bushels 32 lbs. in the previous year.

"Oats shows a slight increase in acreage, being 4,438 against 4,210 acres, and an additional yield of 6,564 bushels; the total produce being 65,777 bushels, compared with 59,213 bushels. This description of grain is grown to any extent only in the south-east, and consequently suffered but little from want of moisture.

"Fewer peas were grown, 3,852 acres being under crop, producing 41,543 bushels, compared with 4,385 acres in 1868 yielding 49,279 bushels. The average per acre was nearly alike in both seasons—about 11 bushels.

"Potatoes alone show a favourable result, this crop having yielded 50 per cent. more than in 1868, with a slight increase in the area planted. This season 2,856 acres were dug, producing 9,293 tons, or an average of 65 cwt. to the acre, as compared with 2,684 acres, yielding at the rate of 47 cwt. to the acre, or 6,335 tons. Last years crop, therefore, shows an increase of 172 acres, and of 2,958 tons. The local supply continues barely to meet one-half of our requirements.

"Garden and orchard ground covers 5,453 acres, as against 5,296 acres, being exclusive of small allotments. Lucerne, artificial grasses, &c., show an increase of 590 acres, the area given being 5,344 acres as against 4,754 acres the year before. Under the heading 'other crops,' 1,028 acres are returned, or 615 acres more than last season.

"Vineyards show a decrease of 240 acres, the area planted being stated to be 5,823 acres; the number of vines returned also shows a falling off, both in those bearing and not in bearing. The vines in bearing have decreased by 155,223, or from 5,853,427 to 5,698,204, and the yet unproductive vines from 513,088 to 351,139, or by 161,949. Notwithstanding these deficiencies the produce of the vintage of 1868–9, to which the returns apply, was considerably larger than its predecessor, the quantity of wine made being 895,795 gallons, or 83,677 gallons additional. For several years the production has reached between eight and nine hundred thousand gallons, or five gallons per head of the population. 150 gallons was the average yield to the acre.

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"Fallow land is returned at 126,922 acres, showing an increase of 8,518 acres upon the previous season.

"The returns of live stock are of an unfavourable character, especially as regards sheep, which class of stock, for the two preceding years, had shown considerable increases in number. Losses from drought, the large number boiled down, and failure in the natural increase, have all tended to this result. The total number of sheep, including lambs, depasturing in 1870, is returned as 4,436,955 as compared with 4,987,024 the year before, or 550,069 deficient. The number of cattle is given as 119,697, or 3,516 fewer than in 1869; and the number of horses 73,828, or a decrease of 1,581 head, exclusive of stock in towns. The number of live stock can always be more accurately ascertained simultaneously with the census, which it is proposed to take next year."

Shipping.

During the year 1869, the total number of vessels entering the ports of this Province was 564 of 167,991 aggregate tonnage. In the previous year, owing to the failure of the harvest, only 446 vessels entered, of 136,051 tons total capacity. 55 ships arrived from the United Kingdom, of 33,638 total tonnage. Intercolonial trade rallied; 226 vessels as compared with 161, arriving from Victoria; and 143 from New South Wales, in lieu of 135. 50 vessels arrived from Tasmania, in place of 42. The increase in number of ships inward, from all countries, was 118, and in capacity 31,941 tons. The following statement shows the number and tonnage of vessels entered inwards from each country during the past three years:—

Ships Inwards.			Countries.	Tonnage.		
1867.	1868.	1869.		1867.	1868.	1869.
40	52	55	Great Britain	25,448	33,499	33,638
223	161	226	Victoria	56,457	44,079	43,486
167	135	143	New South Wales	53,337	33,672	52,643
37	42	50	Tasmania	4,682	5,552	7,051
10	1	6	Queensland	1,967	104	1,287
22	20	26	Western Australia	7,081	7,349	7,507
11	1	9	New Zealand	1,753	—	1,826
2	—	1	Cape of Good Hope	489	254	94
17	15	21	Mauritius	4,567	3,492	4,721
1	—	—	Bourbon	283	—	—
5	1	5	Norway	2,759	464	2,394
—	—	1	British Columbia	—	—	747
9	9	9	Sweden	4,431	4,724	5,119
2	1	2	Hamburg	842	428	1,053
4	3	4	United States	2,305	1,193	2,134
1	—	1	Batavia	280	—	245
4	5	5	China	866	1,241	1,046
555	446	564	Total inwards	167,547	136,051	167,991

With the exception of 54 intercolonial traders, all the above shipping entered with cargoes. The total number of seamen was 7,486, or 1,014 more than last year. Besides the foregoing, 65 Murray River steamers, of 6,370 tons, and with crews numbering 364 men, entered at river ports with cargoes. During the preceding season, 57 steamers, of 4,272 total tonnage, entered inwards in the same trade.

The total number of vessels cleared outwards was 548, of 163,516 tons—an increase of 91 ships and 21,695 tonnage upon the previous year, when 457 vessels, of 141,821 total capacity, departed from South Australian ports.

The subjoined return shows the number of vessels entered outwards and departing to each country during the past three years:—

Ships Outwards			Countries.	Tonnage.		
1867.	1868.	1869.		1867.	1868.	1869.
73	37	51	Great Britain - -	44,547	24,796	32,309
204	190	216	Victoria - - -	46,924	45,885	47,716
150	127	135	New South Wales - -	46,654	43,381	43,008
15	15	12	Tasmania - - -	2,017	1,847	1,634
43	8	29	New Zealand - -	8,026	1,305	5,047
34	22	40	Queensland - - -	7,819	4,387	9,135
22	23	30	Western Australia - -	7,628	6,719	8,926
9	7	10	Mauritius - - -	2,178	1,859	2,192
1	—	—	Singapore - - -	216	—	—
3	6	7	India - - - -	1,682	2,855	5,372
14	7	3	Cape of Good Hope - -	3,692	1,521	502
2	7	3	Batavia - - -	459	3,027	1,820
4	—	—	Rio Janeiro - -	1,194	—	—
5	8	5	Chili - - - -	2,784	4,239	2,940
—	—	1	United States - -	—	—	285
2	—	—	China - - - -	452	—	—
—	—	3	Valparaiso - - -	—	—	1,787
—	—	3	New Caledonia - - -	—	—	843
581	457	548	Total outwards - -	176,272	141,821	163,516

All the above vessels, excepting 42, left with cargoes; and of those in ballast 31 were intercolonial traders. Only 28 out of the 548 vessels employed were other than belonging to British owners.

The total number of ships sailing for England was 51, of 633 average tonnage, as against 37, averaging 670 tons, the year before. 139 vessels are registered as belonging to Port Adelaide—an addition of 13 during the year.

Railways.

The traffic returns for 1869 show an improvement on those of the previous 12 months. The total receipts amounted to 90,626*l*, as against 82,980*l*, or an increase of 7,646*l*. The number of passengers travelling increased from 373,261 to 390,637, and goods carried from 108,018 tons to 159,699 tons, showing an addition of 17,376 passengers and 51,681 tons of goods. The following statement gives the receipts and expenditure detailed during the past three years:—

GROSS RECEIPTS.

	1867.	1868.	1869.	1867.	1868.	1869.
				£	£	£
Number of Passengers - -	444,089	373,261	390,637	—	—	—
Passenger Receipts - - -	—	—	—	34,114	28,912	30,596
Tons of Goods - - -	266,705	108,018	159,699	—	—	—
Goods Receipts - - -	—	—	—	88,577	51,071	56,924
Other Receipts - - -	—	—	—	2,892	2,997	3,106
Total Receipts - -	—	—	—	£125,583	82,980	90,626

GROSS EXPENDITURE.

	1867.	1868.	1869.
	£	£	£
Management - - - - -	2,050	1,782	2,145
Locomotive Department - - - -	19,542	17,129	16,688
Maintenance of line - - - -	31,118	32,271	30,588
Other working expenses (including goods agency)	66,615	45,100	44,820
Total expenditure - - -	£119.325	96,283	94,241

Notwithstanding diminished expenditure, 94,241*l*. as against 96,283*l*., and a largely increased traffic, the working expenses exceeded the receipts by 3,615*l*., as compared with 13,303*l*. (owing to failure of the harvest) last season. The loss this year it must be borne in mind is attributable to the great reduction in the scale of charges on goods,

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which was reduced *one-half*, or from 7·72*d.* to 4·04*d.* per ton per mile on the Port Line, and from 4·83*d.* to 2·49*d.* per ton per mile on the North Line. In any estimate of the return for the large expenditure of capital upon railway construction, cheapness of transport must be set off against the loss accruing to the general revenue.

Main Roads.

During 1869, 23 miles of newly-macadamized road were constructed by the Central Board of Main Roads, making a total length of main lines completed to be 597 miles, of which 422 have been formed during the last ten years. In 1868, 78 miles were formed and metalled.

The Board expended in the construction and maintenance of lines 62,364*l.*, or 66,878*l.* less than last year. The sum defrayed during the 10 years under the Board's supervision was 955,490*l.*, being irrespective of a nearly similar amount disbursed by Local Road Boards, Municipalities, and District Councils, on means of intercommunication from funds provided by local rating, or grants from the Treasury.

Postal Communication.

The Post Office returns show a fair increase in the business of that department, but the largely-increased expenditure is not met by any adequate augmentation of revenue. The loss on this service, which up to 1866 had been a self-supporting one, was in 1868, owing to very extended services, no less than 11,887*l.* During the last year this deficiency was reduced to 9,894*l.*, the receipts having increased from 28,243*l.* to 29,850*l.*, and the expenditure lessened, being 39,744*l.* as against 40,130*l.*

Subjoined is a statement of the number of letters and newspapers carried, and of the income and expenditure of the department:—

	1867.	1868.	1869.
Number of letters - -	2,804,418	2,850,926	3,052,757
Number of newspapers - -	1,924,760	2,086,799	2,086,777
Distance travelled by mails .	1,075,538	1,093,628	1,136,484
	£	£	£
Income - - - -	28,495	28,243	29,850
Expenditure - - -	37,753	40,130	39,744

The number of letters carried has increased from 2,850,926 to 3,052,757; whilst the newspapers remained stationary, being 2,086,777. The distance travelled by mails was 1,136,484, as against 1,093,628, and the length of mail routes, 4,448, as compared with 4,326 miles. 359 persons were employed, or sixteen more than last year; the total number of post offices open being 270.

Telegraphs.

An additional telegraph station was opened during 1869, making the total number, 66. The length of line erected is 1,113 miles, and of wire 1,642 miles. The aggregate number of messages transmitted was 122,299, or 11,899 more than in the previous year. The receipts of the department amounted to 10,722*l.* as compared with 11,223*l.*, or 501*l.* less —this reduction being the result of the greatly diminished but uniform scale of charges throughout the Colony introduced during the year.

Conclusion.

The statistical abstract of the Province of South Australia, the last table of the series, shows very clearly as well the periods of vicissitude as the rapid progress in the development of its resources which has characterized it since its foundation as a British Colony.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. BOOTHBY,

Under Secretary and Government Statist.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 18.

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor WELD to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 50.)

MY LORD, Government House, Perth, April 19, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to forward for your Lordship's information the Blue Book of this Colony for 1869, accompanied by a report by Mr. F. P. Barlee, the Colonial Secretary, to which I beg respectfully to request your Lordship's attention. 19th April, 1870.

I have, &c.,

The Earl Granville, K.G., (Signed) FRED. A. WELD, Governor.
&c. &c. &c.

SIR, Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth, April 19, 1870.

IN forwarding the Blue Book for the past year, I am glad to be able to report my opinion that in a public financial point of view the Colony over which your Excellency has but lately assumed the government is in a sound state. It can show what no other Australian Colony can show—a clean schedule, no debts, and a balance of some 20,000*l.* in hand.

2. The revenue for some years past has steadily though slowly increased, the imports and exports have progressed in like manner; and though from bad crops during the past two years, loss of stock through drought, and other exceptional causes, there has been an unusual depression in many quarters, there is, I am confident, no reason to believe but that all interests are sound at heart, and but little is required to remove that depression, and replace it by hopefulness and vitality.

3. During the few months that have elapsed since your arrival in Western Australia, your Excellency has travelled throughout the settled portion of it, with the exception of the North-West District, and has been able to judge of the capabilities of the Colony, its resources, and wants. The endeavours you have made to develop the one and to supply the other, are already bearing fruit. It may be a fitting opportunity, in this report to accompany the annual Blue Book, to make a short allusion to those matters which have lately occupied public attention.

4. Foremost among these was the idea of offering facilities to shipping by the improvement of the river Swan, by clearing a passage through the bar at its mouth, and constructing, in connection with this, a mole or harbour in the immediate vicinity of the port of Fremantle. Various schemes have, during the last fifteen years, been submitted, no one of which was sufficiently understood to justify action, and one and all of which entailed expense such as could not be spared from the current revenue.

It was decided that the services of some engineer whose opinion would carry weight should be obtained, and arrangements were made to secure those of Mr. W. T. Doyne, C.E., whose able and exhaustive report has put at rest the several schemes above alluded to as impracticable, and suggested measures for the formation of a new port at a short distance from Fremantle, which has in many points undoubted advantages to recommend it, such as deep water for large vessels within a few feet of the shore, and considerable facilities for railway communication both with Fremantle and the splendid ranges of "Jarrah" forests.

5. It is hardly credible that so little energy should have been exercised in the formation of a large export trade in the Western Australian "Jarrah," the peculiar qualities of which, in its resistance to the attack of the white ant and sea-worm, render it very valuable for railway purposes, for ship-building, and for dwelling-houses, especially in tropical countries. The demand for this timber, now becoming known, has of late years been far in excess of the means that the capital and labour in the Colony could supply; and it is within the past few months only that the attention and energy of Victorian and Indian capitalists have been attracted to the fortune that here awaits them. A company has been formed in the former Colony to construct a railway from the port to the timber

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ranges, to erect saw-mills, and in fact to do all that is necessary to supply this timber in any quantity to the world at large.

A similar company is in course of formation in India, and may be expected to commence operations in the course of a month or six weeks. When I mention that both these companies have to import all their skilled and most of their manual labour, it brings me to the question of Immigration, the lack of which has been of late no small drawback to the Colony.

6. It is useless and it would be unwise in me to disguise from your Excellency the feeling of disappointment that has pervaded all classes of the community at the stoppage of immigration.

The colonists are well aware that many years cannot elapse before they will be called on to provide the necessary means for the transport of immigrants, and they will be prepared to do so.

They have, however, always considered the agreement made as to the supply of immigrants being equal to that of convicts as a species of bargain between the Home Government and the Colony; and the temporary stoppage in the annual supply of labour has been one main cause of depression, and will soon, unless supplies from other sources are available, prove a serious drawback to all persons in the Colony. Female servants are not now to be had. Men even with a slight knowledge of general farm labour are not to be had. While fifty men out of work may be found, not one of them may be worth employment. Ticket-of-leave holders and conditional-pardon holders may be found, men broken in health, of worthless character, unable and unwilling to work, living in idleness and on the charity of others, but these men are worse than useless to the hard-working settler, they spoil and render discontented good men, and it requires to look but a little ahead to see them inmates of a poorhouse, a burden to the Colony, their life a misery to themselves and all around them. Western Australia may have gained some prosperity from the introduction of convicts, but she has yet her adverse days from that cause to meet.

The free emigrants lately sent from England may be classed but a little above the foregoing; it is useless to blink the question, they are for the major part those who have through idleness, drunkenness, or real stupidity, failed to earn their livelihood in the mother-country, and have been recommended by parish authorities and accepted as fit subjects for a colony. I speak strongly on this subject, and would respectfully urge on your Excellency the propriety of again advising that nominated emigrants should be forwarded in the manner recommended by a Committee of the Legislative Council in 1868.

I am aware that it is supposed immigrants remain here but a short time, and then move on to the Eastern Colonies. Such has by no means been the case of late; it is now recognized that the markets there are overstocked, and good servants here, of either sex, are so rare, that they receive inducements to remain such as they would not probably realize elsewhere.

7. With the exception perhaps of immigration, no subject has so much occupied public attention as the householders' petition for a partly Elective Council, under the Australian Constitution Act of 1859. This question has been growing in the minds of the colonists for some years, and has now assumed so determined a shape, that even were it advisable, some difficulty would be found in refusing the prayer of the petition. The endeavour to postpone the matter by the small concession of two additional members in the present Council, had a contrary effect; and your Excellency's arrival was hailed as an omen of good fortune by those who desire to inculcate the principles of self-reliance. It may not be too much to say that the ensuing session, already convened to consider this question, will probably not close till measures have been adopted to give effect to the wish of a very large majority of the population.

8. A general desire has been expressed for a revision of the existing land regulations, and their assimilation to those in force in the more prosperous Colonies of Australia. There the lands for cultivation and for pastoral purposes are divided into classes, according to quality, and the rates for purchase or lease arranged accordingly. Here the most worthless piece of sand and the richest soil are sold at the same price, and the luxuriant herbage and barren plains are rented to the squatter on the same terms. The regulations give no encouragement for fencing or expenditure of any kind, and squatters are consequently afraid to expend money on their runs, or if willing to risk the chance could not raise means on loan to do so.

The restrictions placed on the working of mineral land are such as almost to preclude the land from being made use of.

It is sad to see a splendid mineral district, such as that in the vicinity of Champion

Bay, lying idle, and no endeavour made to render it attractive. I am well aware that his matter has already occupied your Excellency's serious attention, and that steps will shortly be taken with a view to remedy these defects.

9. The decennial census of the population was taken on the 31st ultimo, and the returns will probably be published in the course of a couple of months. I do not anticipate the numbers will exceed by any large amount those given in the Blue Book, about 23,000.

10. I have already alluded to the class of paupers becoming a burden on the Colony, and I regret to report that the expenditure on account of charitable allowances is again on the increase. In the male poor-house at Perth there are now some sixty wretched worn-out beings, for the most part ex-convicts, worn out by vice and intemperance, and this in addition to the Imperial Depôt, where those whose maintenance is borne on Convict Funds are kept, and the Lunatic Asylum, whose inmates are almost daily on the increase.

I believe that the average number of paupers (250) given as daily maintained by Colonial Funds is within rather than above the mark.

11. The question of a change in the system of education has been raised by one portion of the community, partly with a view to the resuscitation of denominational grants to religious bodies. It is open to grave doubt how far it would be wise to disturb the existing arrangements, but all those who now partake in those arrangements would, it is believed, gladly see such reasonable modifications as would ensure the cordial co-operation of all creeds in one general system of public education for the lower classes.

12. The criminal records of 1869 do not compare well with those of the previous year, the convictions in the Supreme Court being 36 in 1869, to 17 in 1868, and the summary convictions in petty sessions being 4,561 to 4,137. These latter, however, include upwards of 2,000 convictions for drunkenness, the crying sin in the Colony, and more than 1,000 convictions for matters not of a criminal nature, such as breach of ticket-of-leave regulations, for being out after hours, cattle straying, &c.

13. For the first time during the fifteen years I have occupied my present post, it is my painful duty to record that a public officer in a high position has proved a defaulter in money matters to a considerable extent. I mention this (I believe the only instance of such a case in the history of the Colony) for two reasons: first, to say that the officer in question occupied a post at a long distance from head-quarters, where but little means of supervision could be exercised; and secondly, to add that all officers through whose hands public money now passes have been called on to give security to such an extent as must render the recurrence of such circumstances as that to which I have alluded very improbable.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) FRED. P. BARLEE.

New Zealand.

No. 111.

NEW ZEALAND.

No. 19.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir G. F. Bowen, G.C.M.G., to The Earl of Kimberley.

(No. 157). Government House, Auckland, New Zealand,
My Lord, December 23, 1870.

I have the honour to transmit six copies of the Annual Blue Book, or Statistics of New Zealand for 1869. Prefixed is the Report of the Registrar-General.

2. If the almost continual warfare and disturbances of many years past are taken into consideration, the general progress of this country, as shown by these Statistical Returns, cannot be described otherwise than as, on the whole, very satisfactory.

I have, &c.,
The Earl of Kimberley, (Signed) G. F. BOWEN.
&c. &c. &c.

Statistics of New Zealand, 1869.

To the Honourable William Gisborne, Colonial Secretary, &c.

Registrar-General's Office, Wellington,
Sir, November 25, 1870.

In presenting, as I have now the honour to do, the completed "Statistics of New Zealand for 1869," it seems desirable to state, in order to guard against possible misapprehension, that a very considerable portion of the contents of the volume is, not merely substantially but exactly, a *re-issue* of Tables which have been already published —having been presented to the General Assembly in the beginning of the month of September last—and since circulated to some extent, not only in New Zealand, but also in the Australian Colonies and the United Kingdom. The series of "Tables in Anticipation of the Annual Volume," comprised no less than fifty-two of the seventy-one Tables making up the body of the Volume. The remaining Tables, which were necessarily postponed because the pressure of work on the Government Printing Office in connection with the Parliamentary Session rendered it impracticable to get them printed sooner, have now passed through the press, and will be found, together with those previously issued, in this Volume.

In former years I had been accustomed to reserve the Introductory Report until the Volume in its completed form was ready for publication. But last year I thought it advisable to prefix to the "Tables in Anticipation" for 1868 so much of the Annual Report as related to the branches of information comprehended in them. This course was, I have reason to believe, acceptable to many to whom the summarized views and comments thus given in comparatively small compass were more convenient than the copious details of the Tables themselves. I have, therefore, adopted the same plan this year, and, in consequence, the following Report will be found, to the same extent as the Tables, a re-issue of that already presented (under date 30th August), with only a few alterations, but with, of course, the addition of the sections relating to the Tables now published for the first time.

Population.

The Triennial Census of the Colony, taken for the night of the 19th December, 1867, must necessarily form the basis on which the numbers at the end of the year 1869 are to be calculated, the estimate being formed by the well-known process of adding to the numbers then ascertained the excess of births over deaths, and of immigration over emigration. According to the last Census enumeration, the population of New Zealand (exclusive of the military and their families, and of the aboriginal natives) was 218,668, *viz.* 131,929 males and 86,739 females. The addition of 364—*viz.* 156 males and 208 females—being the estimated increase for the twelve days between the Census and the close of the year—made the estimated population, on the 31st December, 1867, amount to 219,032 persons, *viz.* 132,085 males and 86,947 females. During the year 1868 the estimated net increase was 7,586, *viz.* 2,536 males and 5,050 females, making the total estimated population at the end of that year 226,618, *viz.* 134,621 males and 91,997 females.

During the year 1869 the excess of registered births over registered deaths (the births and deaths connected with the military, which, however, are included in Table No. IV. of this Volume, being omitted in this calculation) was 6,990, and the excess of immigration over emigration 3,641, together making a net increase of 10,631 persons, *viz.* 5,491 males and 5,140 females. Thus it will be seen that the total (estimated) population of the Colony on the 31st of December, 1869, exclusive of the military and their families (who, to the number of 1,020, still remained in New Zealand at that date) and of the aboriginal natives, was 237,249, *viz.* 140,112 males and 97,137 females. The increase in 1869 was centesimally 4·07 per cent. on males, 5·08 per cent. on females, and 4·06 per cent. on the whole population.

Table No. I. contains the particulars of the process by which the estimate of the population has been formed. The following summary will exhibit the proportions for the several quarters of the year :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
First Quarter.			
Excess of births over deaths during first quarter	595	772	1,367
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration during first quarter	555	430	985
Increase during first quarter	1,150	1,202	2,352
Second Quarter.			
Excess of births over deaths during second quarter	791	914	1,705
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration during second quarter	28	60	88
Increase during six months	1,969	2,176	4,145
Third Quarter.			
Excess of births over deaths during third quarter	904	1,086	1,990
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration during third quarter	737	355	1,092
Increase during nine months	3,610	3,617	7,227
Fourth Quarter.			
Excess of births over deaths during fourth quarter	900	1,028	1,928
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration during fourth quarter	981	495	1,476
Total increase during 1869	5,491	5,140	10,631
Population as estimated on the 31st of December, 1868	134,621	91,997	226,618
Estimated total population on the 31st of December, 1869	140,112	97,137	237,249

It is scarcely necessary to repeat (what has so frequently been stated) that it is only when a Census is taken that the distribution of the population in the provinces or other divisions of the Colony can be given with even a reliable approximation to accuracy; and as the interval since a Census becomes longer, the more conjectural must any attempt to present it obviously be. It may be generally stated here that in December, 1867, when the numbers were last actually ascertained by Census, the Northern Island (comprising the provinces of Auckland, Taranaki, Wellington, and Hawke's Bay) had 79,913 persons, or 36·58 per cent.; and the Middle Island (comprising the provinces of Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury, the county of Westland, and the provinces of Otago and Southland) 138,571, or 63·42 per cent. of the whole population of the Colony.

Immigration and Emigration.

The immigration (over seas) to New Zealand in 1869 amounted to 8,903, of whom 6,302 were males and 2,601 females. Of the males, 5,784 were adults and 518 children; of the females, 2,181 were adults and 420 children.

The emigration (over seas) from the Colony amounted to 5,262 persons, of whom 4,001 were males and 1,261 females. Of the males, 3,615 were adults and 386 children; of the females, 960 were adults and 301 children.

The net excess of immigration over emigration in 1869 was 3,641, being 2,781 more

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than the net excess in 1868. It is to be remembered, however, that the net excess in 1868 was greatly less than in any of the preceding years since 1853, included in Table No. III., and greatly less than the average for the fifteen years—1853 to 1867 inclusive —which amounted to 9,274. The net excess of immigration in 1869, although showing a marked increase over 1868, was still smaller than any previous year since 1857.

Taking the divisions of the Colony separately, the excesses of immigration over emigration in 1869 were:—In the province of Auckland, 1,155; in the province of Taranaki, 9; in the province of Wellington, 134; in the province of Hawke's Bay, 19; in the province of Nelson, 244; in the province of Canterbury, 574; in the county of Westland, 264; and in the province of Otago, 1,290. On the other hand, in the province of Southland, the emigration was 48 in excess of the immigration.

The following figures show the immigration and emigration in 1869, classified according to the countries from which the immigrants arrived, and to which the emigrants went:—

IMMIGRATION.				EMIGRATION.			
Countries.	M.	F.	Total.	Countries.	M.	F.	Total.
United Kingdom - -	1,587	1,190	2,777	United Kingdom - -	451	289	740
Australian Colonies - -	4,507	1,345	5,852	Australian Colonies - -	3,422	910	4,332
Other British Ports -	11	6	17	Other British Ports -	1	—	1
Foreign States - -	197	60	257	Foreign States - -	127	62	189

From these figures it will be seen that the excess of immigration over emigration, viewed in relation to countries, was: United Kingdom, 2,037; Australian Colonies, 1,520; other British Ports, 16; and Foreign States, 68.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

The total number of births registered in New Zealand during the year 1869 was 9,718, *viz.* 4,875 males and 4,843 females. The total in 1868 was 9,391, *viz.* 4,766 males and 4,625 females. The increase in 1869 was therefore 327, *viz.* 109 males and 218 females. The returns, it will be remembered, show, not the births which have actually occurred, but the births which have been *registered* during the specified periods.

The total number of deaths registered in 1869 was 2,721, *viz.* 1,683 males and 1,038 females. The total in 1868 was 2,662, *viz.* 1,631 males and 1,031 females. There appears, therefore, in 1869, as compared with 1868, an increase of 59, *viz.* 52 males and 7 females.

Of the deaths in 1869,—957 (*viz.* 526 males, and 431 females) were under one year of age; 209 (*viz.* 108 males and 101 females) one and under two years; 152 (*viz.* 87 males and 65 females) two and under five years; making a total of 1,318 (*viz.* 721 males and 597 females), or 48·43 per cent. of the whole, under five years.

The general total of deaths includes 136 (*viz.* 124 males and 12 females), or 5·49 per cent. of the whole, from drowning; and 188 (*viz.* 159 males and 29 females), or 6·99 per cent. of the whole, from various other external causes; making a total of 324 (*viz.* 283 males and 41 females) from such causes, being 11·99 per cent. of the deaths during the year.

The proportions of births and deaths to every thousand persons living in each of the last ten years are shown approximately in the following Table:—

Year.	Estimated Population at Middle of Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS.	
		Number Registered in Year.	Ratio per 1,000 Living.	Number Registered in Year.	Ratio per 1,000 Living.
1860 - -	76,390	3,146	41·18	1,091	14·28
1861 - -	89,323	3,441	38·52	1,109	12·41
1862 - -	112,416	4,064	36·15	1,231	10·95
1863 - -	144,930	5,115	35·29	1,983	13·68
1864 - -	168,833	6,501	38·50	2,921	17·30
1865 - -	182,113	7,490	41·12	2,757	15·13
1866 - -	197,360	8,466	42·89	2,540	12·86
1867 - -	211,391	8,918	42·18	2,702	12·78
1868 - -	222,825	9,391	42·14	2,662	11·94
1869 - -	231,934	9,718	41·90	2,721	11·73

These figures show, for 1869, one birth to every 23, and one death to every 85 persons living. The average for the ten years is one birth to every 24, and one death to every 75 persons.

The excess of births over deaths in 1869 was 6,997, *viz.* 3,192 males and 3,805 females. The total excess of registered births over registered deaths in the fifteen years included in these Tables was 52,003, *viz.* 24,248 males and 27,755 females.

The total number of marriages in New Zealand in 1869 was 1,931, being 154 less than in 1868. Of these, 1,766 were by ministers of religion, and 165 by registrars. The respective numbers solemnized by ministers of the several religious bodies were as follow:—United Church of England and Ireland, 508; Church of Scotland, Free Church of Scotland, Presbyterian Church of Otago and Southland, and Presbyterian Congregations, 629; Roman Catholic Church, 311; Wesleyan Methodists, 190; Congregational Independents, 49; Baptists, 38; Primitive Methodists, 23; Lutheran Church, 4; Hebrew Congregations, 3; United Methodist Free Churches, 8; and Christian Brethren, 7.

The Tables show the numbers of marriages in the respective provinces in each year since "The Marriage Act, 1854," came into operation, and the respective numbers solemnized by officiating ministers and by registrars in each year within that period.

Trade and Interchange.

The information relating to shipping occupies eight Tables.

The first two show the numbers, tonnage, and crews of vessels entered inwards and cleared outwards at the several ports of New Zealand during the year 1869. The total *inwards* was 764 vessels, of 250,731 tonnage, being a decrease, as compared with 1868, of 87 in the number of vessels, and of 26,374 in the tonnage. The total *outwards* was 771 vessels, of 247,764 tonnage, being a decrease, as compared with 1868, of 102 in the number of vessels, and of 39,946 in the tonnage.

The next two Tables show vessels, tonnage, and crews, classified according to "countries "whence arrived," and "countries for which cleared." Of the Total of 764 vessels *inwards*, 69, of 50,647 tonnage, arrived from the United Kingdom; 596, of 177,463 tonnage, from the Australian Colonies and other British possessions; and 99, of 22,621 tonnage, from foreign countries (including the Southern Whale Fisheries). Of the total of 771 vessels *outwards*, 42, of 32,608 tonnage, cleared for the United Kingdom; 590, of 183,288 tonnage, for the Australian Colonies and other British possessions; and 139, of 31,868 tonnage, for foreign countries (including the Southern Whale Fisheries).

The two following Tables show the "nationality" of the vessels, inwards and outwards. Of the 764 vessels *inwards*, 119, of 72,640 tonnage, were British; 584, of 155,303 tonnage, Colonial; 41, of 15,332 tonnage, American; 8, of 2,762 tonnage, Norwegian; 5, of 1,724 tonnage, French; 3, of 880 tonnage, German; 2, of 685 tonnage, Dutch; and 2, of 1,405 tonnage, Russian. Of the 771 vessels *outwards*, 110, of 67,839 tonnage, were British; 604, of 159,054 tonnage, Colonial; 33, of 12,716 tonnage, American; 8, of 2,886 tonnage, Norwegian; 7, of 1,933 tonnage, French; 4, of 1,149 tonnage, German; 2, of 522 tonnage, Dutch; 2, of 1,406 tonnage, Russian; and 1, of 259 tonnage, Chilian.

It is convenient to notice here the *registered vessels* belonging to ports in New Zealand, although the Tables which relate to them are placed in a subsequent part of the volume. The information is more full than that given in previous Tables, showing the numbers and tonnage of sailing vessels and steam vessels separately, and classifying the vessels as "Of and under 50 tons," and "Above 50 tons." It will be seen that there were altogether on the Register, on the 31st December, 1869, 381 vessels, of 25,990 tonnage. Of these, 181 vessels, of 10,113 tonnage, belonged to the port of Auckland; 24, of 1,896 tonnage, to the port of Wellington; 8, of 364 tonnage, to the port of Napier; 25, of 1,167 tonnage, to the port of Nelson; 66, of 4,772 tonnage, to the port of Lyttelton; 69, of 7,461 tonnage, to the port of Dunedin; and 8, of 217 tonnage, to the port of Invercargill.

The total value of the imports of the Colony in 1869 was 4,976,126*l.*, against 4,985,748*l.* in 1868, being a decrease of 9,622*l.*, or 0·19 per cent.

The following figures show the increase or decrease in each of the provinces (and the county of Westland) in 1869, as compared with 1868:—

NEW ZEALAND.

		£	
Auckland	increase	563,156, or 70·25	per cent.
Taranaki	decrease	5,288, or 30·01	„
Wellington	decrease	146,801, or 23·58	„
Hawke's Bay	increase	3,092, or 4·00	„
Nelson	decrease	87,535, or 19·26	„
Marlborough	decrease	8,840, or 59·13	„
Canterbury	decrease	63,117, or 10·34	„
Westland (County)	decrease	102,939, or 17·16	„
Otago	decrease	138,151, or 8·42	„
Southland	decrease	23,211, or 15·61	„

A comparison of the total value of imports in 1868 and 1869, according to the countries whence they were received, gives the following results:—

	1868.	1869.		
	£	£		£
United Kingdom	2,299,689	2,458,579	Increase	158,890
British Colonies	2,351,685	2,280,135	Decrease	71,550
Foreign States	334,374	237,412	Decrease	96,962
Totals	4,985,748	4,976,126	Decrease	9,622

The total value of the exports from New Zealand in 1869 was 4,224,860*l.*, against 4,429,198*l.* in 1868, being a decrease in 1869 of 204,338*l.*, or 4·61 per cent. Excluding the value of imported goods re-exported from the Colony, the total value of exports of New Zealand produce and manufactures in 1869 amounted to 4,090,134*l.*, against 4,268,762*l.* in 1868, being a decrease of 178,628*l.*, or 4·18 per cent.

The two very important exports—gold and wool—demand more particular notice here.

The total value of the gold exported from New Zealand in 1869 was 2,362,995*l.*, produced by the several gold fields to the following amounts, *viz.*:—Auckland, 435,687*l.*; Nelson (including Westland North), 623,872*l.*; Marlborough, 2,664*l.*; County of Westland, 687,316*l.*; Otago, 602,264*l.*; and Southland, 11,192*l.*

The total value of gold exported in 1868 was 2,504,326*l.* There appears, therefore, a net decrease in 1869 amounting to 141,331*l.* The falling off in amount occurred in Nelson, Westland (South), Otago, and Southland; while in Auckland and Marlborough there was an increase. The exact amount of increase or decrease in each case is shown in the following figures:—

VALUE OF GOLD exported in 1868 and 1869 respectively.

	1868.	1869.	Whether Increase or Decrease.	Amount of Increase or Decrease.
	£	£		£
Produce of Gold Fields in the Province of Auckland	168,874	435,687	Increase	266,813
Ditto „ Marlborough	1,616	2,664	Increase	1,048
Ditto „ Nelson	833,180	623,872	Decrease	209,308
Ditto County of Westland	814,060	687,316	Decrease	126,744
Ditto Province of Otago	652,356	602,264	Decrease	50,092
Ditto „ Southland	34,240	11,192	Decrease	23,048
	2,504,326	2,362,995	Decrease	141,331

The total quantity of wool exported in 1869 was 27,765,636 lbs., against 28,875,163 lbs. in 1868, being a decrease of 1,109,527 lbs. The total value stated for 1869 was 1,371,230*l.*, against 1,516,548*l.* in 1868, showing a decrease of 145,318*l.*, or 9·58 per cent.

Tables XIV. and XV. show the total value of imports and exports respectively at the several ports of New Zealand in 1869. Tables XVI. and XVII. exhibit, in a condensed form, the total value of imports and exports for the Colony for each year from 1853 to 1869 inclusive, distinguishing the Provinces, and the respective amounts of imports from, and exports to, the United Kingdom, the British Colonies, and Foreign States. [Tables XVIII. and XIX. have been prepared so as to exhibit *details* of general imports and exports in the greatly enlarged form in which

they were presented for the first time in the last Statistical Volume; by which they are brought into closer resemblance to the Statistical Tables issued by the Board of Trade, and to those published in the several Australian Colonies, and means are afforded for forming an accurate judgment of the nature and extent of the interchange which is carried on between New Zealand and other countries. A new column showing the "Amount of Duty Received" on each article is now added to the imports, Table No. XVIII. Table XIX.A gives additional information, by showing the quantity and value of the various articles exported from each of the ports in New Zealand during the year 1869.

Ten Tables (XX.–XXIX.) contain summaries showing compendiously the totals of various articles of export in 1869, compared with previous years. Separate Tables of this description are appropriated to gold, grain, Kauri gum, oil, potatoes, timber, wool, and hides and skins.

Revenue of the Colony.

The Customs revenue in 1869 amounted to 823,508*l.*, against 788,829*l.* in 1868, being an increase of 34,679*l.*, or 4·39 per cent.

The following figures show the comparative amounts realized by this branch of the revenue during the ten years—1860 to 1869 inclusive:—

	£		£	
1860 - -	189,168	being an increase of	20,852, or	12·38 per cent.
1861 - -	260,863	„ „	71,695, or	37·90 „
1862 - -	399,436	„ „	138,573, or	53·12 „
1863 - -	592,050	„ „	192,614, or	48·22 „
1864 - -	592,346	„ „	296, or	0·05 „
1865 - -	730,008	„ „	137,662, or	23·24 „
1866 - -	844,267	„ „	114,259, or	15·65 „
1867 - -	843,997	being a decrease of	270, or	0·03 „
1868 - -	788,829	„ „	55,168, or	6·53 „
1869 - -	823,508	being an increase of	34,679, or	4·39 „

The total ordinary revenue in 1869 amounted to 1,025,516*l.*, against 1,195,512*l.* in 1868, being a decrease of 169,996*l.*, or 14·22 per cent.

The total territorial revenue in 1869 amounted to 382,070*l.*, against 425,323*l.* in 1868, being a decrease of 43,253*l.*, or 10·16 per cent.

[It is to be understood that the total given as territorial revenue in 1869 includes 140,103*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, duty on gold exported, and miners' rights and gold-fields fees (against 130,553*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* from similar sources included in the Tables for 1868). Particulars relating to this amount for 1869 will be found in a note to Table XXXI. in the present Volume.]

The general total of the revenue (both ordinary and territorial) amounted in 1869 to 1,407,586*l.*, against 1,620,835*l.* in 1868, being a decrease of 213,249*l.*, or 13·15 per cent.

The subjoined Table exhibits a comparative view of the revenue, ordinary and territorial, in the several Provinces in 1868 and 1869, specifying the centesimal increase or decrease in each Province in the latter year:—

	Ordinary Revenue.			Territorial Revenue.			Total Ordinary and Territorial.		
	1868.	1869.	Centesimal Increase or Decrease.	1868.	1869.	Centesimal Increase or Decrease.	1868.	1869.	Centesimal Increase or Decrease.
Provinces—	£	£		£	£		£	£	
Auckland - -	197,693	250,624	Incr. 26·77	*35,810	*41,786	Incr. 16·68	233,503	292,410	Incr. 25·22
Taranaki - -	12,452	8,406	Decr. 32·49	—	—	—	12,452	8,406	Decr. 32·49
Wellington - -	130,348	97,436	Decr. 25·24	15,832	7,935	Decr. 49·87	146,180	105,371	Decr. 27·91
Hawke's Bay -	32,957	31,904	Decr. 3·19	4,764	3,305	Decr. 30·62	37,721	35,209	Decr. 6·65
Nelson - -	133,525	91,735	Decr. 31·29	33,094	36,965	Incr. 11·69	166,619	128,700	Decr. 22·75
Marlborough - -	10,356	8,718	Decr. 15·81	5,021	5,584	Incr. 11·21	15,377	14,302	Decr. 6·99
Canterbury -	185,816	125,831	Decr. 32·28	74,183	64,840	Decr. 12·59	259,999	190,671	Decr. 26·66
County—									
Westland - -	136,368	104,266	Decr. 23·54	50,019	44, 628	Decr. 10·77	186,387	148,894	Decr. 20·11
Provinces—									
Otago - -	307,339	273,930	Decr. 10·87	177,034	148,484	Decr. 16·12	484,373	422,414	Decr. 12·79
Southland - -	48,534	32,486	Decr. 33·06	29,566	28,543	Decr. 3·46	78,100	61,029	Decr. 21·85
Chatham Islands -	124	180	Incr. 45·16	—	—	—	124	180	Incr. 45·16
	1,195,512	1,025,516	Decr. 14·22	425,323	382,070	Decr. 10·16	1,620,835	1,407,586	Decr. 13·15

* The amounts of territorial revenue shown for Auckland include 7,335*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* in 1868, and 5,528*l.* 8*s.* in 1869, which sums were proceeds of lands sold under the New Zealand Settlements Acts, subject to special appropriation, and therefore not "Land Revenue" in the usual acceptation of the term.

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The income and expenditure of the Colony and of the Provinces are shown in three Tables. The first of these (No. XXXII.) presents, on opposite pages, a view of the income and the expenditure, in their various branches, as relating to the Colonial Treasury, and the Provincial Treasuries taken *collectively*. Two succeeding Tables show the income and expenditure of the several Provinces (and of the County of Westland) taken separately. . . . . A Table follows which shows in detail the receipts and disbursements by the receivers of land revenue during the year.

Information relating to the debt of the General and Provincial Governments of New Zealand, authorized by acts or ordinances, up to the 31st of December, 1869, is given in two Tables, occupying eight pages. The first (No. XXXVI.) shows the following particulars:—The total amount authorized to be borrowed, specifying by what Government, and under what authority; the total amount raised on the 31st of December, 1869, specifying the amount of debentures in circulation, the rate of interest, and when the respective debentures are redeemable; also, the rate of sinking fund, the amount of sinking fund accrued, and the manner in which it has been invested. But the debt of the Colony owing by the General and Provincial Governments respectively being shown in No. XXXVI. as the loans were authorized by each, and subsequent legislation and the creation of new Provinces having distributed the liability in other proportions, another statement is given in No. XXXVIA., showing the actual liability of each Government as it existed on the 31st of December, 1869. Explanatory remarks are added to each of the Tables, to which it will be necessary to refer for particulars of specific information on various details.

It will be seen that, according to No. XXXVI., the total amount of debentures in circulation on the 31st of December, 1869, was 7,360,616*l.*; and that the total amount of sinking fund accrued was 340,583*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*

Waste Lands—Sales, &c.

The Tables (like those of the last two years) contain information extending to the Crown lands held under leases. No. XXXVIII. shows the numbers of acres of waste lands sold in the several Provinces (and the County of Westland) in 1869, with the rates per acre, and other particulars. No. XXXIX. shows the numbers of acres absolutely disposed of without sale,—to immigrants; to naval and military settlers, under New Zealand Settlement Acts, &c.; reserves granted for public purposes under "Public "Reserves Act, 1854;" to Europeans or Natives under "Waste Lands Act, 1858;" "Crown Grants Act (No 2, 1862)," Native Reserves Acts, &c.; to natives by grants under "Native Lands Acts, 1865," &c.; and in satisfaction of land scrip, or otherwise not specified. No. XL. shows the Crown lands held under depasturing or other leases (except for gold mining), distinguishing the leases for depasturing purposes, and for mineral or other purposes, and the respective numbers of acres and amounts of rents and assessments.

Banks.

A similar Table to that introduced for the first time in the Statistical Volume for last year, and again prepared by the Assistant Treasurer, shows the average liabilities and assets of the several banks in New Zealand in respect of their transactions within the Colony during the year 1869, together with their capital and profits. The liabilities and assets are the averages of the amounts shown in the four quarterly returns furnished by the respective banks, and published in the 'New Zealand Gazette,' according to the provisions of "The Bankers' Returns Act, 1858." The particulars as to "Capital and "Profit" are taken from the returns for the last quarter of the year, and include for each bank the capital paid up to the 31st December, 1869; the rate per annum of last dividend declared to shareholders; the amount of last dividend declared; and the amount of reserved profits at the time of declaring such dividend. The banks included in the Table are the Bank of Australasia, the Bank of New South Wales, the Bank of New Zealand, the Bank of Otago (limited), and the Union Bank of Australia. The aggregate amounts shown for these banks are: total average liabilities, 3,863,006*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*; total average assets, 6,231,416*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*; total capital paid up, 31st December, 1869, 4,181,529*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*; total amount of last dividends, 273,448*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*; and total amount of reserved profits at the time of declaring such dividends, 1,364,906*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.* The distribution of these totals amongst the respective banks will be found in the Table.

Joint Stock Companies.

Twenty-five joint stock companies were incorporated in the Colony during the year 1869—*viz.* 7 in the Province of Auckland; 4 in the Province of Taranaki; 6 in the Province of Wellington; 5 in the Province of Canterbury; 1 in the County of Westland; and 2 in the Province of Otago. The total number of companies incorporated under "The Joint Stock Companies Act, 1860," is 127—*viz.* 1 in 1861; 13 in 1862; 19 in 1863; 12 in 1864; 15 in 1865; 18 in 1866; 13 in 1867; 11 in 1868; and 25 in 1869. Of the total number during the whole period, 44 were in the Province of Auckland; 10 in the Province of Taranaki; 3 in the Province of Hawke's Bay; 10 in the Province of Wellington; four in the Province of Nelson; 1 in the Province of Marlborough; 27 in the Province of Canterbury; 2 in the County of Westland; and 26 in the Province of Otago. Particulars relating to all these companies similar to those given in the present Table for 1869 may be found in the Statistical Volumes for the previous years.

Prices of Provisions and Live Stock.

A Table prepared on the same plan as in former years shows the average prices of provisions and of live stock in the several Provinces (and in the County of Westland) in 1869.

Post Office.

The total number of letters received in New Zealand during the year 1869 were—from places without the Colony, 482,629, against 532,636 in 1868; and from places within the Colony, 2,159,906, against 2,070,441 in 1868; making a general total of 2,642,535, against 2,603,077 in 1868, being an increase of 39,458. . . . . The total numbers of letters despatched were—to places without the Colony, 477,375, against 506,395 in 1868; and to places within the Colony, 1,896,685, against 1,867,727 in 1868; making a general total of 2,374,060, against 2,374,122 in 1868, being a decrease of 62.

The total numbers of newspapers received in 1869 were—from places without the Colony, 1,098,469, against 1,005,733 in 1868; and from places within the Colony, 978,423, against 901,576 in 1868; making a general total of 2,076,892 against 1,907,309 in 1868, being an increase of 169,583. The total numbers of newspapers despatched . . . . were—to places without the Colony, 405,047, against 363,407; and to places within the Colony, 1,081,208, against 1,012,909; making a general total of 1,486,255, against 1,376,316 in 1868, being an increase of 109,939.

The postal revenue in the several Provinces for each year from 1858 to 1869 inclusive is shown in a comparative Table. The total amount in 1869 was 58,007*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, against 57,107*l.* 14*s.* in 1868, being an increase of 899*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, or 1·57 per cent. The same Table exhibits in a compendious form, the total numbers of letters and newspapers respectively which were received or despatched during the same twelve years (1858–1869).

The total number of money orders issued in New Zealand in 1869 was 28,427, against 25,854 in 1868, being an increase of 2,573. The total amount of these orders in 1869 was 127,218*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*, against 118,211*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* in 1868, being an increase of 9,007*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* . . . . . The total number of money orders paid in New Zealand in 1869 was 16,740, against 14,598 in 1868, being an increase of 2,142. The total amount of these orders in 1869 was 75,833*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, against 67,536*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* in 1868, being an increase of 8,297*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*

A Table now introduced for the first time in the Statistical Volume, shows in detail the number and amount of money orders issued and paid at each money order office in New Zealand, during the year 1869.

Savings Banks.

Three Tables contain information relating to savings banks, *viz.* two for the Post Office Savings Banks, and one for the savings banks which were in operation before the establishment of those in connection with the Post Office.

At the close of the year 1869, the number of Post Office Savings Banks in the Colony was 59, being an increase of four, as compared with 1868. Of these 13 were in the Province of Auckland; 1 in the Province of Taranaki; 3 in the Province of Hawke's Bay; 3 in the Province of Wellington; 4 in the Province of Marlborough; 5 in the Province of Nelson; 7 in the Province of Canterbury; 3 in the County of Westland; 17 in the Province of Otago; and 3 in the Province of Southland. Within the year, 3,839 new

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accounts were opened, and the total deposits (including additions to open accounts), amounted to 240,898*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* The total amount of principal withdrawn during the year was 179,599*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* Taking into account the whole period, from the commencement of the system in 1867 to the 31st December, 1869, there remained on the latter date, including principal and interest, a total balance to the credit of depositors amounting to 231,310*l.* 18*s.*

Table No. LI. contains a summary of these transactions, including a comparison with the years 1868 and 1867; and No. LII. shows a detailed statement of the transactions at each of the banks throughout the Colony.

The number of savings banks other than those connected with the Post Office was 10. The total number of persons having deposits in these banks on the 31st December, 1869, was 3,813 (of whom 29 were Maories). The total deposits during the year amounted to 58,730*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*; and the total of the sums withdrawn to 53,034*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of the year was 89,073*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*

Taking both classes of savings banks together, there was on the 31st of December, 1869, an aggregate amount of 320,384*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* to the credit of depositors, being 76,768*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* more than the aggregate amount at the end of the year 1868.

Telegraph Lines.

The Table containing information respecting the telegraph lines in the Colony shows the names of the stations, which in December, 1869, numbered 52, being four more than in December, 1868; the number of miles of lines, which was 1,611, being 140 more than in 1868; the number of miles of wire, which was 2,777, being 140 more than in 1868; the numbers of telegrams (distinguishing the private and the Government telegrams), the aggregate of which in 1869 was 173,746, against 134,647 in 1868, being an increase of 39,099: and the cash revenue (of private telegrams), with the cash value (of Government telegrams), the totals of these taken together being 32,649*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.* against 26,224*l.* 16*s.* in 1868, being an increase of 6,424*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* The Table shows, at the foot, a comparative view for the several years 1866–69 inclusive.

Public Schools.

The returns for public schools in 1869 have been furnished, as in former years, for the December quarter. The information for the Province of Auckland and Taranaki respectively is imperfect for reasons which are explained in notes to the Table. The figures for the other Provinces (excluding Auckland and Taranaki) show, collectively taken, increases of 13 schools, 31 teachers, and 1,327 pupils on the books in December quarter, 1869, as compared with December quarter, 1868. The particulars for each Province will, of course, be found in the Table.

Legal and Criminal Statistics.

Tables LVI. to LXIX. inclusive are occupied by the Legal and Criminal Statistics of the Colony in 1869. Of these, three (Nos. LVI. to LVIII.) relate to the Supreme Court, showing the criminal, the civil, and the bankruptcy cases; and three (Nos. LIX. to LXI.) to the District Courts, showing the same classes of cases respectively. Seven Tables (Nos. LXII. to LXVIII.), are occupied by the cases brought before the Resident Magistrates' and Magistrates' Courts,—distinguishing the cases in which Europeans, or Maories, or both, were concerned;—a summary (No. LXIV.) showing the number of convictions in the Resident Magistrates' and Magistrates' Courts, for each of the offences of most frequent occurrence in the several years from 1853 to 1869 inclusive. The last Table of this Series (No. LXIX.) shows the numbers of prisoners committed to gaol in 1869, specifying the sexes, the causes of imprisonment, the native countries, the classes (as to social position), and the degrees of education of the prisoners. The total number committed in 1869 was 3,062 (viz. 2,436 males and 626 females), against 3,292 (viz. 2,672 males and 620 females) in 1868. It thus appears that there was a net decrease of 230 in 1869, as compared with 1868;—and, as was shown by the previous Statistical Volume, there was in 1868, as compared with 1867, a decrease of 860.

The aggregate number of convictions during the year 1869 in the Supreme, the District, and the Resident Magistrates' and Magistrates' Courts, was 12,086, against 11,363 in 1868, and 11,677 in 1867. It should be remarked, however, that these totals were to a great extent made up by convictions for comparatively light offences—drunkenness

alone contributing 4,429 to the total for 1869—4,595 to that for 1868, and 4,927 to that for 1867.

The aggregate number of civil cases commenced in the Supreme and the District Courts in 1869 was 1,527, against 1,836 in 1868, and 2,906 in 1867. . . . . In the Resident Magistrates' and Magistrates' Courts, in 1869, the total number of civil cases was 20,537, against 20,216 in 1868, and 30,705 in 1867. The total amount sued for in these Courts in 1869 was 257,486*l.*, against 264,975*l.* in 1868, and 337,289*l.* in 1867; and the total amount for which judgment was given in 1869 was 117,999*l.*, against 121,258*l.* in 1868, and 146,472*l.* in 1867.

The bankruptcy cases brought before the Supreme Court and the District Courts respectively are shown in the Tables Nos. LVIII. and LXI. Taking the Courts together, the totals for 1869 were as follow:—Number of declarations of insolvency filed, 821, against 627 in 1868; nnmber of petitions 570, against 395 in 1868. Of the cases before the Courts, there were withdrawn, dismissed, or lapsed, 245, against 235 in 1868; changed from bankruptcy to arrangement, 7, against 21 in 1868; debtors discharged by the Court, 339 immediately, with 69 cases suspended, against 180 immediately, and 34 suspended, in 1868; number of deeds of arrangement under Part XVIII. of the Bankruptcy Act, 111, against 106 in 1868.

Meteorology.

The Meteorological Tables for 1869 have, as before, been prepared under the direction of Dr. Hector, Inspector of Meteorological Stations in New Zealand, and the information which they contain is presented in the same form as in the last Volume, namely, not (as in former years) under the title of an "Appendix," but as forming an integral part of the Volume to which this information makes so interesting and valuable an addition.

The Table No. LXX. exhibits in a summary form a comparative view of climate as observed at the several Meteorological Stations in New Zealand, during the year 1869; and No. LXXI. shows, in detail, the observations at the respective Stations. For convenience of arrangement, only one number is given to the successive sheets containing these observations, but the Tables relating to the several Stations are distinguished by separate letters, which being shown in the Table of Contents prefixed to the Volume, will, it is anticipated, prevent any delay or difficulty in referring to any particular station respecting which informatien may be desired. The Stations included are—(A.) Mongonui; (B.) Auckland; (C.) Taranaki; (D.) Napier; (E.) Wellington; (F.) Nelson; (G.) Christchurch; (H.) Bealey; (I.) Hokitika; (J.) Dunedin; and (K.) Southland.

Agricultural Statistics.

February, 1870.

In addition to the Tables properly belonging to the year 1869, a special Report and a series of Tables are appended, relating to the Agricultural Statistics of the Colony, according to an account taken in the month of February in the present year. These include not only the particulars ascertained in 1870, but also tables showing those particulars as compared with similar information obtained in February, 1869. The Report and Tables, as now given, have already had an extensive circulation, having been published in the 'New Zealand Gazette' of the 13th of July last; but a record of them in the Statistical Volume will, I have no doubt, be generally acceptable.

I have, &c.,

JOHN B. BENNETT,

Registrar-General.

MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 20.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 20.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Lieut.-General Sir RICHARD AIREY, G.C.B., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 131.)

MY LORD, Gibraltar, July 16, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Gibraltar for the year 1869, the accuracy of which has been duly certified by the Colonial Secretary.

The revenue for the year ended 31st December, 1869, from all sources amounted to 37,833*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*, showing an increase of 959*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* as compared with the revenue of the previous year. The principal increase has been under the heads of duty on wine and spirits, wharfage, tolls, port charges, and Crown rents.

The total expenditure for the same year amounted to 29,724*l.* 8*s.*, showing an excess of revenue over expenditure of 8,108*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* and being 7,063*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* less than that of 1868, in which year payments of an extraordinary nature were made, viz.:—

A contribution of 4,500*l.* in aid of the work of drainage and water supply undertaken by the Sanitary Commissioners, and 1,500*l.* for the purchase, by the Crown, of a private property for the purpose of widening the principal thoroughfare in the City.

The total surplus revenue of the Colony on the 31st December, 1869, amounted to 23,001*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, of which the sum of 7,200*l.* is invested in Exchequer Bills.

Taxes and Duties—Fees.

During the year 1869 there were no changes in the scale of duties, or in the Schedule of Fees.

Legislation.

Two Ordinances have been promulgated during the year, viz.:—

1. An Ordinance to prevent the printing and publishing of unlicensed newspapers or periodicals in Gibraltar, and to authorize the granting of licences for the printing and publishing newspapers and periodicals.
2. An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Gibraltar Prison.

Public Works.

The most important work undertaken during the year was the restoration and thorough repair of the Convent, or Government House, at a cost of 1,963*l.*

Sanitary Works.

The main drainage works for the town, called the Central District, were satisfactorily completed during the year, and plans are in preparation for the drainage of the Southern District.

The year 1869 will also be memorable for the inauguration of the Water Works of Gibraltar, undertaken by the Sanitary Commissioners under the Orders in Council, 1865 and 1868.

In the month of April experiments were commenced on the Sandy Isthmus, called the North Front, in search for a supply of fresh water. Results were obtained of a very encouraging nature, and leading to the conclusion that a large supply of good water could be obtained for the use of the civil population and the garrison. A well was sunk and suitable machinery erected within the advanced lines of the garrison, and about midway between the Bay of Gibraltar, on the western side of the isthmus, and the Mediterranean Sea on the eastern side. On the 19th November, 1869, water was forced into reservoirs situated above the Moorish Castle, at elevations of 250 and 300 feet above the sea; and on the 8th December the event was celebrated by a public inauguration.

The works are at present of an experimental and provisional nature only, but plans are in preparation for the construction of water works adapted to the supply of the entire population.

Shipping.

The shipping returns of 1869 exhibit a considerable increase of tonnage over that of the preceding year, viz.:—

	Tons.
In 1869 - - -	1,546,456
In 1868 - - - -	1,519,046
Increase -	27,410

The British vessels numbered in 1868, 1,181,705 tons, and in 1869, 1,197,896 tons.

Population.

The last census, taken in 1868, showed the population to be as follows:—

Fixed civil population - - -	15,782
Military population - - - -	6,368
Alien floating population - - -	2,281
Grand total - - -	24,431 souls.

The births and deaths registered during the year 1869 have been as follows:—

	Births.	Deaths.
Civil population - - -	541	453
Military population - - -	137	74
Total - -	678	527

The sanitary state of the garrison and of the civil population throughout the year has been remarkably good, and it affords me great pleasure to be again able to notice the continued prosperity and satisfactory prospects of this Colony

I have, &c.

The Earl of Kimberley, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) RICHARD AIREY,
Lieut.-Gen. and Governor.

MALTA.

No. 21.

No Report for 1869 *received.*

HELIGOLAND.

HELIGOLAND.

No. 22.

HELIGOLAND.

No. 22.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor MAXSE to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 51.)

MY LORD, Heligoland, November 15, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to enclose the Blue Book for 1869.

2. I have to apologize for the delay in the transmission of the book in question, which arose from the totally different circumstances of the Island necessitating a very considerable change in the form of the Report.

3. I am happy to be able to draw your Lordship's attention to the regular payment of taxes, about which there had been so much trouble on former occasions; and also to the yearly diminution of the public debt.

4. I regret, however, to add that, as regards the current year, the war between France and Germany has acted very deleteriously on the finances of this small Colony—the bathing season, the almost sole source of profit, having been a complete failure.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) FITZ MAXSE,

Lieut.-Colonel, &c.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

REPORTS

SHOWING THE

PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS

For the Year 1869.

PART III.

EASTERN COLONIES.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

1871.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES & SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS,

FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1871.

[*C.*—407.] *Price* 1*s.*

SCHEDULE.

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PART III.

CEYLON.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir HERCULES ROBINSON, K.C.M.G., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 210.)

MY LORD, Queen's House, Colombo, Ceylon, September 16, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of Ceylon for the year 1869, and to submit the following Report on its contents.

Revenue and Expenditure.

	£
The revenue for 1869 was	946,494
The expenditure for ditto	881,373
Excess of revenue over expenditure	£65,121

2. The financial results of the year 1869 are satisfactory. The revenue of the Colony, which in the previous year suffered greatly from the depression of trade and from the effects of a drought of unusual severity, by which the early rice harvest was almost entirely lost, recovered with the revival of trade and under the influence of favourable seasons.

	£
The revenue for 1868 was	925,265
„ 1869	946,494
Showing an increase in 1869 over 1868 of	£21,229

3. The following are the principal items of increase:—

	£
Customs	13,743
Land sales	11,876
Land revenue	11,791
Sale of salt	10,573
Arrack and rum	5,958
Timber	2,134

The increase of revenue from the sale of salt and arrack is attributable partly to the sale of these articles not having been farmed out but kept in the hands of Government, in which case the receipts are brought to account under the head "Sale of Government Property" instead of under the head "Licences," as is the case where the rents are sold. The revenue from licences exhibits a decrease from this cause, viz. arrack, 597*l.*; salt, 3,864*l.* There is a decrease of revenue of 4,523*l.* under the head of Exports, owing to the postponement of shipments of coffee, &c., towards the close of the year in order to get the benefit of the abolition of the export duties, which took effect from 1st January, 1870. There is also a large decrease of 12,667*l.* under the head Colonial Store, owing to a diminished issue of stores to the Public Works Department. The net result is, as above stated, an increase of revenue for the year of 21,229*l.*

	£
The expenditure for 1869 was	881,373
„ 1868	974,950
Showing a decrease of expenditure of	£93,577

CEYLON.

4. The estimates of 1869 were framed with a view to carry into effect an instruction from Her Majesty's Government that a surplus cash balance of 50,000*l.* should be created to meet emergencies. With this object the usual expenditure of the year on public works and stores was largely reduced, the reduction under these heads being

	£
Works and buildings - - -	5,971
Roads, streets, and bridges - - -	43,354
Colonial store - - - -	47,872
	£97,197

There is a reduction of expenditure also under the head of Establishments amounting to 5,482*l.*, owing mainly to the transfer of the telegraph department to the Indian Government. The results of the year have been to show that a somewhat larger economy was practised than was necessary to carry into effect the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, the excess of revenue over expenditure of the year amounting, as stated above, to 65,121*l.*, and the surplus cash balances of the Colony available for appropriation on the 31st December being 84,367*l.*

5. In addition to the ordinary expenditure of the year, there was a further expenditure on Public Works of 79,431*l.* charged against the balances of former years and surplus funds.

Assets and Liabilities.

	£
6. The assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1869, amounted to -	522,732
The liabilities amounted to - - - - - - -	383,219
Showing a balance in favour of the Government of - -	£139,513

In the statement of assets are included the arrears of revenue outstanding believed to be recoverable, amounting to 66,000*l.*, and also a further sum of 3,000*l.* on account of surcharges outstanding. Omitting these items from the statement of assets, and deducting on the other hand from the statement of liabilities an item of 13,853*l.* on account of "Drafts outstanding," the actual cash balance of the Colony available for appropriation on 31st December, 1869, amounted, as before observed, to 84,367*l.*

Public Debt.

7. The public debt of the Colony consists of a loan of 700,000*l.* raised on debentures at 6 per cent. between 1863 and 1867 for the construction of the Ceylon Government Railway from Colombo to Kandy. To provide for the interest and redemption of this loan certain export duties on coffee and other produce of the island (imposed expressly for that purpose) together with the profits of the line, were hypothecated by an Ordinance of the Colonial Legislature, No. 7, of 1864. In consequence of the successful working of the railway the funds thus set apart to meet the charges on account of the loan have proved much more than sufficient for the purpose. The sum at credit of the sinking fund at the close of 1869 amounted to 228,300*l.*, and it was found that the profits of the railway alone were more than sufficient to meet the interest of the debentures and to provide for the gradual extinction of the debt. Under these circumstances, the export duties being no longer required for the purpose for which alone they were originally imposed, have, with the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, been abolished from the beginning of this year: the receipts from the railway have been merged in the general revenue of the Island; and that revenue has been charged with an annual payment of 58,000*l.* for fourteen years, a payment which it is calculated will, after defraying the interest on the loan, create a sinking fund sufficient to provide for the redemption of the debentures as they arrive at maturity.

8. By this arrangement a large measure of relief has been afforded to the planting interests by the removal of the export duties, while the Colonial revenue is benefited by the immediate accession to it of the net profits of the railway, which for the current year are estimated at over 60,000*l.* after meeting the 58,000*l.* required for the sinking fund.

Imports and Exports.

9. The value of goods imported in 1869, exclusive of specie, was 3,407,094*l.*, showing an increase of 3,106*l.*, as compared with that of 1868, which amounted to 3,403,988*l.* There was a decrease of 142,141*l.* on the exports, the value for the two years having been: 1868, 3,474,070*l.*; 1869, 3,331,929*l.*

10. Adding to these the specie imported and exported, the total value of the imports and exports of 1869, as compared with those of the preceding year, stands thus:—

Imports.

	£
1868	4,403,177
1869	4,635,023

Exports.

	£
1868	3,786,721
1869	3,631,065

11. The total value of goods (exclusive of specie) imported and retained in the Colony during 1869 amounted to 3,065,041*l.*, viz.:—

	£
Imports, exclusive of specie	3,407,094
Deduct imports exported	342,053
Goods retained	£3,065,041

12. The total value of specie imported and retained in the Island during 1869 amounted to 928,793*l.*, viz.:—

	£
Specie imported	1,227,929
Ditto exported	299,136
Specie retained	£928,793

13. The total value therefore of goods and specie imported and retained in the Island during 1869 amounted to 3,993,834*l.*, as follows:—

	£
Goods retained	3,065,041
Specie ditto	928,793
Goods and specie retained	£3,993,834

14. The total value of Ceylon produce exported in 1869 amounted to 2,989,876*l.*, viz.:—

	£
Exports, exclusive of specie	3,331,929
Deduct imports exported	342,053
Ceylon produce	£2,989,876

15. The apparent excess in the value of the imports over that of the Island produce exported is ascribable to the system of valuation adopted by the Customs Department. The imports and exports are both taken at their value in the market here, the latter representing little more than the cost of production. If the exports were valued at their selling price in the markets for which they are destined the excess would no doubt appear on the other side.

16. The revenue derived from imports and exports in 1869 was 291,061*l.*, showing an increase of 9,002*l.*, as compared with that of the preceding year, which amounted to 282,059*l.* The increase on imports was 13,288*l.*, of which 5,428*l.* was on cotton manu-

Ceylon.

factures, 1,382*l.* on grain, and 3,560*l.* on wines, spirits, and malt liquors. On exports there was a decrease of 4,286*l.*; chiefly on the following articles, viz. coffee 4,413*l.*, cocoa-nut oil 330*l.*, and arreca-nut 433*l.* There was however an increase of 628*l.* on the export of cinnamon, and of 422*l.* on plumbago.

Enclosure 1. Enclosure 2. 17. I append to this Despatch a return of exports of coffee, cinnamon, cocoanut oil, and coir for the last ten years; return of the total value of imports and exports (including specie and bullion) in the years 1867, 1868, and 1869.

18. The tonnage of the year, both inwards and outwards, shows a small decrease.

Public Works.

19. From the abstract attached to the Blue Book returns furnished by the Director of Public Works, it will be seen that the total expenditure on public works during the past year amounted to 269,853*l.*, viz.:—

	£
Government money	208,632
Commutation money paid in assessment for labour under the Road Ordinance and private contributions	25,345
Cost of establishment	35,876
	£269,853

20. As compared with 1868, the expenditure of 1869 shows a decrease of 56,172*l.* The expenditure on public works (as already explained) was largely reduced for the purpose of creating a cash balance out of the transactions of the year.

21. The expenditure is divided under the following heads:—

	Government Money.			Road Ordinance Funds and Private Contributions.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Opening new roads	27,948	17	11¼	2,182	7	2¾	30,131	5	2
Upkeep of roads and canals	96,716	0	2¼	22,180	4	10¼	118,896	5	0½
New bridges	12,283	19	6¼	698	1	1½	12,982	0	7¾
Repair of bridges	5,547	18	8¾	—			5,547	18	8¾
New buildings	25,512	6	6	205	0	0	25,717	6	6
Repair of buildings	11,639	16	1	—			11,639	16	1
Drains	438	5	0	—			438	5	0
Ferry-boats	99	5	1	—			99	5	1
General service	1,449	14	9¼	—			1,449	14	9¼
Miscellaneous services	13,268	11	10	79	11	6½	13,348	3	4½
Irrigation works	13,727	13	10	—			13,727	13	10
	208,632	9	5¾	25,345	4	9	233,977	14	2¾
Cost of establishment	—			—			35,875	13	6
						£	269,853	7	8¾

22. Of new roads, the most important one in progress was that between Badulla, in the Central Province, and Batticaloa on the east coast. About 48 miles of this road have been completed, and the expenditure on it to the end of last year amounted to 38,449*l.* In the Central Province two other roads, opening outlets for coffee estates, were completed, viz. the road from Teldeniya to Galmal Oya at a cost of 8,039*l.*, and the road from Giniga-thene to Dik Oya at a cost of 22,342*l.* from Government money and private contributions. The progress of the road from Galle to Morawak Koralé, the new coffee district in the Southern Province, has been slow, owing to the failure of the contractors employed on that road to carry out their contracts, in consequence of the scarcity of labour. The work has now been taken up by a division of pioneers, and is progressing more favourably. A sum of 10,259*l.* has been expended on this road up to the end of last year. Another road of some importance to native interests, which was completed last year, was that from Colombo to Ambétellé, in the Hewagam Koralé, in the Western Province. It opens several popu-lous and productive villages in that Koralé, hitherto without a direct communication with Colombo, and provides them with a ready market for their commodities. The amount expended on this road was 8,310*l.*, one half of which was defrayed from Government funds and the other half from private contributions.

23. The following bridges have been completed last year:—

	£
Mayha Oya on the road from Kégalla to Polgahawella cost	7,870
Palamputtar „ „ „	3,094
Mirisgoni Oya „ „ „	4,252

24. The bridges at Mátara and Bentota have been advanced so far as to be ready for traffic. The amounts expended on them up to last year were:—

Mátara Bridge	£8,522
Bentota	5,488

25. The Bridge over the Deduru Oya on the road from Kurunégala to Puttalam in the North-Western Province, on which 8,976*l.* were expended to the end of last year, is nearly completed.

26. Amongst the new public buildings completed during the year the following may be noticed, viz.—

	£
Hospital at Kandy, in the Central Province, cost	7,500
„ Gampola „	4,220
„ Badulla „	1,682
„ Ratnapura in the Western Province	1,655
Police Barracks at Colombo „	9,614
Post and Telegraph Offices, Kandy in the Central Province	3,715
New Court House at Haldamullé „	999
„ Panwila „	465
„ Wrugalla „	499
„ Kachcheri at Kégalla in the Western Province	595
Powder Magazine, Colombo „ „	1,414

27. Progress has also been made with the additions and improvements of Welikadé jail, the convict prison of Colombo. This prison will when completed afford accommodation for about 800 convicts. The works are being carried out (with very economical results) by prison labour under the superintendence of the Public Works Department.

Irrigation.

28. The total expenditure on irrigation works during the year was 13,727*l.*, of which 7,438*l.* was expended in the Eastern Province. The repairs to the Paria Kulum tank, at a cost of 1,064*l.*, and to the Allai tank in the Trincomalee district, at a cost of 2,723*l.*, have been completed. At Rugam tank more than three-fourths of the work have been completed, the sum expended to the end of last year being 6,510*l.* The high-level sluice at Kandelai has been repaired at a cost of 226*l.*, and the lower sluice will be undertaken this year.

29. In the Southern Province some important irrigation works have been commenced, but have not yet been completed. The extensive works at Kekanadura, for which an estimate of 5,500*l.* was sanctioned, were commenced late in the year, and a sum of 2,477*l.* was expended on them in 1869. Fair progress has been made in the works at the Denagama and Weanwewa tanks in the Mátara district, the estimated cost of which was 4,247*l.*, of which 2,026*l.* were expended to the end of last year.

30. In the Central Province a sum of 1,114*l.* was expended on irrigation works; of which the most important were, the improvement of the Butalé Ela, which has been completed at a cost of 555*l.*; the repairs to the Horaborawewa tank, which has been nearly completed, the sum expended last year on it being 523*l.*; and the construction of a dam at the mouth of the Allut Ela in Badulla, completed at a cost of 450*l.*

31. In the Western Province a sum of 728*l.* was expended on irrigation works, the only undertaking of any importance being the restoration of the water channel at Kinchigune, in the Saparagama district, estimated cost 578*l.*, which has been commenced, but not yet completed.

Government Houses at Colombo, Galle, and Kandy

32. I enclose Reports* of the Director of Public Works on the state of these buildings. Considerable alterations and improvements have been recently made to the Queen's House at Colombo, and the Pavilion at Kandy; and these buildings are now in very good order.

* Not printed.

CEYLON.

33. I enclose also the Reports * of the Colonial Storekeeper on the state of the public furniture in these houses. New furniture of good quality has recently been provided from Bombay and England for the public reception rooms of the Queen's House at Colombo, and the Pavilion at Kandy.

* Not printed.

Surveying Department.

34. From the Report of the Surveyor-General it appears that during the year 1869, 4,420 lots, containing 28,831 acres of Crown land, were disposed of for 48,249*l.*, or at the rate of 1*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* per acre, exclusive of survey fees, which amounted to 6,560*l.* 1,818 lots, containing 6,991 acres, were settled on certificates, free grants, &c, the fees for which realized 1,409*l.* The fees received for temple land titles amounted to 120*l.* 16*s.*; and the fees for the survey and plans of a portion of the town of Colombo, and for tracings, &c., to 1,624*l.* 16*s.*

35. The total number of lots alienated from the Crown was 6,238, containing 35,823 acres, and the total sum realized by land sales and fees amounted to 57,964*l.* During the previous year the number of lots alienated was 5,832, the extent 27,358 acres, and the amount realized 38,514*l.*

36. The largest sales have taken place in the Western Province, in which 2,388 lots, containing 11,196 acres, were disposed of for 18,674*l.* The next in importance is the Eastern Province, where large tracts of land suitable for paddy cultivation have been sold consequent on the restoration of irrigation works. The number of lots sold was 1,188, the extent 7,550 acres, and the amount realized 12,825*l.* In the other Provinces, the sales were as follows:—

Provinces.	No. of Lots.	Extent.	Purchase Amount.
		acres.	£
Central - - - -	324	7462	11,025
Southern - - -	301	799	2,924
North-western - - -	197	1764	2,695
Northern - - -	22	58	103

37. The expenses of the department amounted to 25,819*l.*, of which 5,312*l.* were chargeable to miscellaneous services, such as the examination of temple land surveys, the survey of irrigation works, town surveys, and the expenses attending the meteorological observations, leaving a balance of 20,507*l.* as the actual cost of the ordinary work of the department.

38. The progress in the preparation of title plans to be attached to deeds has exceeded that in any previous year; 3,043 plans having been prepared in triplicate, representing an area of 22,305 acres.

39. The triangulation of the Island has made considerable progress. Surveys of several irrigation works have also been made, and the meteorological observations taken at the different stations in the Island have been supervised by the department.

Railway.

40. The working of the railway has been most satisfactory, and the line has been maintained in very good order by the contractor.

41. The receipts for the year amounted to 180,965*l.*, and the working expenses to 72,500*l.*, leaving a profit of 108,465*l.*, which is equivalent to 6 per cent. on the capital cost of the railway of 1,800,000*l.*

In 1868 the receipts amounted to 163,667*l.*, and the working expenses to 74,685*l.*; so that in 1869 there was an increase in the receipts of 17,298*l.*, whilst there was a diminution in the expenditure to the amount of 2,185*l.*

42. In addition to the ordinary working expenses there has been expended during the year 9,237*l.* for additional station and other accommodation; 879*l.* in strengthening the permanent way, and 5,000*l.* as a contribution from Government towards the cost of substituting steel for iron rails on the incline and on portions of the line between Kadugannawa and Peradeniya. The Capital account having been closed, this expenditure has also been charged to Revenue.

43. There has been a further expenditure of 1,837*l.* on account of rolling stock, chargeable to the balance on the vote of 25,000*l.* allowed for this purpose by the Ordinance, No. 11, of 1867.

44. The number of passengers carried during the year was 181,720 against 180,984 in 1868, and the tonnage of goods was 134,369 tons against 116,176 tons in 1868.

45. Several serious land-slips occurred on the incline during the year. On the 14th

July a large mass of rock fell on the line, and traffic was interrupted for nineteen days while it was being removed by blasting. The next serious slip was on the 16th November, near the 55½ mile, when the traffic was again interrupted until the 21st. In addition to these there were other slips of various extent, but they did not cause any serious interruption to the traffic.

Legislative.

46. Eighteen Ordinances were enacted in the Session of 1869; from No. 7 to No. 19 of 1869, and from No. 1 to No. 5 of 1870. Nos. 1 to 6 of 1869 were passed in the Session of 1868.

47. No. 7 of 1869, "To provide an uniform Mode of Oaths," was enacted in accordance with instructions from the Secretary of State, directing the adoption in this Colony of certain forms of oaths prescribed in a recent Act of Parliament, 31 and 32 Vict. cap. 72.

48. Ordinance No. 8, "To discourage the illicit sale of Wine, Arrack, Rum, or Spirits," increases the punishment to be inflicted for the illicit sale of spirits and spirituous liquors. The punishment affixed to this offence by Ordinance No. 10 of 1844, a fine of 5*l.*, was found to be insufficient to deter offenders; and the offence was largely on the increase. Magistrates are now empowered to add, at their discretion, imprisonment to fine.

49. No. 9, "Relating to payment of the Railway Debt," repeals the export duty imposed by the Ordinance No. 2 of 1856, and provides for the payment of the railway debt by a charge on the general revenue of 58,000*l.* a year for fourteen years.

50. No. 10 amends the Postal Ordinance of 1865, supplying certain omissions in that Ordinance relating to the levy of inland postage, and postage on correspondence transmitted by British India Company's steamers; the payment of double rates of inland postage at the Despatching Office, so as to secure prepayment of letters to destination, &c., &c. It also makes certain other amendments, which experience of the operation of the Ordinance of 1865 showed to be desirable.

51. No. 11 of 1869 and No. 5 of 1870 make provision respectively for the supplementary contingent charges for the year 1869, and for the contingent services of the year 1870.

52. No. 12 was introduced to allow the experiment of using traction engines on the high roads of Ceylon.

53. Ordinance No. 13 was passed to prevent the wanton destruction of elephants, which, it was represented, was carried on to a great extent in some parts of Ceylon; and to restrict their removal from the Island by the imposition of a royalty on elephants thus removed.

54. No. 14 makes further provision for the working expenses of the railway for the year 1869.

55. Ordinance No. 15, "To declare the consent of the Legislature of this Colony "to the erection of a Lighthouse on the Great Basses Rocks, and to the collection of "Dues in respect thereof," was enacted in conformity with the instructions of the Secretary of State, with the view of carrying out the arrangements made by Her Majesty's Government for the erection of a Lighthouse on the Basses Rocks.

56. The Prison Discipline Commission having recommended that the Welikadé Prison should be enlarged, so as to make it the principal penal establishment in the Island; that a separate prison should be constructed near it for female prisoners, and that these establishments, together with the Hulpdorp Jail, should be placed under the charge of a separate officer, Ordinance No. 16 was passed in order to carry out these recommendations, and to confer on the superintendent of these establishments the powers and authorities vested at present in the Fiscal, so far as they extend to the custody, care, and management of criminal prisoners in the two jails in question.

57. No. 17, "For the general regulation of Customs in the Island of Ceylon," embodies in one consolidating Ordinance the several enactments bearing on this subject. Various amendments in the law, suggested from time to time by the Chamber of Commerce, have been adopted in this Ordinance.

58. No. 18 establishes tolls on certain roads recently completed.

59. No. 19, "To make provision relating to the possession and use of Firearms" re-enacts substantially the provisions of the Ordinance No. 22 of 1848, which was inadvertently included in the list of enactments repealed by Ordinance No. 5 of 1869.

60. The necessity for the enactment of Ordinance No. 1 of 1870, "Relating to the "Fixed Civil Establishments of the Colony," was explained in my address on opening the session of the Legislative Council in 1869, from which the following is an extract:—"An "amendment of the Civil List Ordinances is desirable in consequence of the old appoint- "ments which have been abolished, and the new appointments which have been created,

CEYLON.

" since the enactment of the Civil List Ordinances of 1858 and 1859. The effect of these " Ordinances remaining in force is needlessly to set apart annually from our revenue a " considerable sum for the payment of salaries which no longer exist, whilst provision is " at the same time made in the annual estimates for all the appointments which have since " been created."

61. Ordinance No. 2 of 1870 empowers the Government to borrow, for the purpose of improving the Galle Harbour, any sum not exceeding 250,000*l.* from the Imperial Public Works Loan Commissioners, to be repaid with interest by an annuity of 5 per cent. for 35 years. The debt is made chargeable on the revenue of the Colony; and the Government are empowered to provide by taxation for the expenditure entailed by the proposed improvement.

62. No. 3 amends the laws of marriage in the Kandyan provinces, as contained in the Ordinance No. 13 of 1859. That Ordinance made a great change in the marriage laws of Kandyans. With them the mere living together was sufficient to constitute a lawful union; and unions thus loosely contracted were dissolved merely at the will of parties. The Ordinance of 1859 established a system of registration, applicable not only to future, but to existing unions. It also provided that marriages could only be dissolved by the decree of a competent court. And it prohibited in express terms polygamy and polyandry, which formerly prevailed amongst the people. It was found, however, from the reports of officials from the Kandyan districts, that this law was to a great extent disregarded. Unions were formed without registration, and dissolved without the decree of a court. The consequence has been the creation of the crime of adultery and the status of bastardy, conditions unknown to Kandyan law as it stood before 1859. To remedy this state of things the present Ordinance was introduced. Its main features are these:—(1) Following the precedent set in the maritime provinces by Ordinances 6 of 1847 and 13 of 1863, all unions contracted according to Kandyan customs since the coming into operation of the Ordinance of 1859, and void for want of registration or for invalid registration, are made legal, saving only the rights of those who have already come into possession. (2) The fees for registration are abolished; and (3) greater facilities are provided for the dissolution of registered marriages in cases in which the parties to them are unable from incompatibility of temper or any other cause to live happily together.

63. Ordinance No. 4 defines the services due by the Pravéni tenants of Wiharagama, Déwalagama, and Nindagama lands, and provides for the commutation of those services. Under the Kandyan law lands were held under the king, and subject to services to be rendered to him. The king from time to time conferred lands on chiefs and others and devoted them to Buddhist temples. The holders of the lands became then liable to services to the grantee. These services were not duly defined; and the consequence has been, in many cases, that the tenants were required to render larger services than were justly due; whilst, on the other hand, the tenants themselves had the means of defrauding their landlords by omitting to render, when required, their due quota of service. The evils arising from this state of things were much aggravated by the power which the chiefs had of alienating the lands, and thus transferring the services due by their tenants to strangers. It was long manifest to the Government that legal interference was necessary, with a view as well to the protection of the tenant as of the landlord. An Ordinance was accordingly passed in 1846 to require the services to be defined, and to enable tenants to commute those services by a money payment. Earl Grey, who was Secretary of State at the time, approved of the principle of the measure, though he objected to other provisions contained in that enactment in reference to the management of Buddhist temples. For some cause or other the matter seems to have been lost sight of. As the evils, however, which led to that enactment had largely increased, this Ordinance was brought forward. It is intended to effect two objects:—First, to define the services which the proprietors of the lands are entitled to demand, and which the tenants are bound to perform; and, secondly, to ascertain and determine the annual money value of those services, so as to enable tenants, who may desire to do so, to commute them.

Public Health.

64. The principal civil medical officer reports that the public health generally throughout the Island was exceptionally good during the year. There was no remarkable prevalence of disease in the rural districts of any of the Provinces; and fevers, which had become endemic in the Western, Southern, North-western, and a portion of the Central Province in the early part and middle of 1868, were only known in an ordinary mild form among the native population during 1869.

65. Of cholera only thirteen cases of a sporadic character were reported to have occurred during the year, of which five proved fatal.

66. Only fifty-five cases of small-pox occurred at Chilaw and Galle, where that disease prevailed to some extent in 1868, and had not quite disappeared at the beginning of 1869. A single case of small-pox remained in Galle at the close of the year; but the disease had entirely disappeared in every other part of the Island.

67. It appears from the Report of the principal civil medical officer that the number of cases treated in the Government civil hospitals during 1869 was 7,890, the smallest number on record since 1862, with the exception of the years 1863 and 1865, when the totals were 6,425 and 7,594 respectively. The number of deaths in the hospitals in 1869 was 1,077, showing a rate of mortality of 13·65 per cent. against 16·3 per cent. in 1868.

68. During 1869 four new hospitals have been completed and occupied at Kandy, Gampola, Badulla, and Ratnapura; and several others are in the course of erection at other Stations. These buildings have been constructed on an improved principle, with free ventilation, and affording ample accommodation for patients, a space of not less than 1,000 cubic feet being allowed for each bed.

69. The health Reports of the several jails in the Island are as satisfactory as those of the Government Hospitals.

Education.

70. The number of schools supported by Government on the 31st December last was 120. This number shows a decrease of two schools as compared with the number in existence in the previous year, and there is a corresponding decrease of 325 in the total number of pupils, with an increase of fourteen in the average daily attendance.

71. Of the aided schools the number has increased by three, with an increase of 185 pupils on the roll, and of 188 in the average daily attendance.

72. The expenditure on account of education, as compared with 1868, shows an increase of 300*l.*, the total amount expended during 1869 being 16,466*l.*

73. The receipts in 1869 from fees amounted to 2,469*l.*, being a decrease of 147*l.*, as compared with the sums received in 1868.

74. The returns from the different missionary bodies show an increase of 165 in the number of schools supported by them, and of 7,194 in the number of pupils attending them. The following is an abstract of these schools:—

	No. of Schools.	No. of Pupils.
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel - -	133	4,951
Church Missionary Society - - - - -	73	2,722
Wesleyan Missionary Society - - - -	107	4,106
Presbyterians - - - - - -	1	58
Baptist Missionary Society - - - -	22	531
American Missionary Society - - - -	61	2,412
Roman Catholic Missionary Society - - -	100	5,463
	497	20,243

75. The numbers in 1868 were 332 schools and 13,049 pupils.

76. The number of private schools in 1869 was 285, with an attendance of 6,442, showing an increase as compared with 1868 of 38 schools and of 696 pupils.

77. I enclose a copy of the twenty-sixth Report of the Department of Public Instruction, which gives more detailed information regarding the Government schools from the 1st July, 1868, to the 30th June, 1869. Enclosure 3.

78. Prefixed to the Blue Book Returns will be found a Table giving a statistical view of the progress of this Colony for the years 1821 to 1869 inclusive, and an abstract of the principal statistical results for the years 1868 and 1869.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

CEYLON.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 1.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 1.

DECENNIAL RETURN of EXPORTS of Coffee, Cinnamon, Cocoanut Oil, and Coir, the produce of the Colony.

Customs, Colombo, June 21, 1870.

Years.	COFFEE.			CINNAMON.			COCOANUT OIL.			COIR.			Total Amount of Customs Revenue from the foregoing Exports.
	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	Quantity	Value.	Duty.	
	cwts.	£	£	lbs.	£	£	gals.	£	£	cwts.	£	£	£
1860	620,132	1,574,033	31,007	675,156	33,758	675	1,549,089	154,909	3,890	36,616	24,864	458	36,030
1861	648,026	1,656,733	32,402	845,218	42,261	845	1,040,428	104,043	2,613	43,168	31,883	540	36,400
1862	605,178	1,445,284	30,259	875,475	43,774	876	1,429,531	142,953	3,591	46,595	37,648	583	35,309
1863	828,587	2,126,222	41,429	734,038	36,702	734	1,878,585	187,858	4,718	51,784	39,103	647	47,528
1864	671,164	1,744,793	33,559	776,675	38,833	775	2,249,402	224,948	5,649	36,313	27,386	454	40,437
1865	927,440	2,343,532	46,373	850,973	42,549	852	1,176,784	120,678	2,955	41,378	31,637	516	50,696
1866	987,624	2,286,880	44,882	890,484	44,524	890	1,042,853	104,400	2,619	46,687	33,035	594	48,985
1867	943,592	2,430,536	47,180	1,017,750	50,887	1,018	1,345,485	134,548	3,379	49,675	34,446	621	52,198
1868	1,007,338	2,563,999	50,367	2,056,509	102,825	2,057	1,423,853	142,385	3,576	68,804	46,607	861	56,861
1869	919,065	2,391,980	45,954	2,684,367	134,269	2,685	1,292,065	129,206	3,244	64,998	43,031	812	52,695
Total	8,068,146	20,563,992	403,412	11,406,645	570,382	11,407	14,428,075	1,445,928	36,234	486,019	349,622	6,086	457,139

(Signed) T. B. STEPHEN,
Principal Collector.

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 1.

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 1.

TOTAL VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS (including Specie and Bullion) from each Country, in each of the Years 1867, 1868, and 1869.

Customs, Colombo, June 20, 1870.

COUNTRIES.	IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.		
	1867.	1868.	1869.	1867.	1868.	1869.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	1,350,311 19 11	1,264,470 2 2	1,175,757 16 11	2,556,188 9 8	2,793,312 10 10	2,652,781 1 7
British Possessions in India	2,595,259 12 10	2,454,189 8 4	2,681,779 18 2	797,174 4 2	788,442 10 9	752,907 7 10
Mauritius	18,006 13 5	6,941 1 0	7,308 15 11	6,517 17 6	70,240 13 10	4,186 18 1
Aden	—	439 16 0	61 3 6	73 19 11	1,511 2 4	10,075 16 9
Hong Kong	7,668 12 10	14,140 14 6	13,501 0 1	232 5 0	1,028 19 0	903 13 11
Australia	281,141 15 9	266,576 0 0	366,710 16 4	32,612 9 6	39,551 3 9	44,413 5 10
Gibraltar	—	—	—	20,623 0 9	—	—
Cape of Good Hope	—	1,281 4 9	11 4 10	1,356 6 9	—	—
France	173 0 0	6,574 7 6	233 10 3	34,682 8 10	24,501 0 8	75,467 15 7
Suez	43,434 9 5	181,872 19 10	179,161 14 2	10,952 7 9	6,155 19 9	8,674 4 2
French Possessions in India	152,343 0 2	172,959 18 7	164,948 5 1	24,846 4 8	13,252 4 9	12,350 17 2
Maldive Islands	44,531 1 6	26,914 1 2	30,103 12 6	9,074 5 1	6,578 13 5	4,773 16 10
United States of America	7,297 6 10	6,817 12 8	13,475 2 7	33,945 8 10	37,431 6 2	62,928 4 11
Dutch Possessions in India	3,139 8 6	—	—	1,945 5 0	901 0 0	554 6 10
China	—	—	—	—	3,805 12 0	1,047 14 9
Muscat	—	—	1,970 7 3	—	—	—
Juddah	1,031 15 6	—	—	—	—	—
Total £	4,504,338 16 8	4,403,177 6 6	4,635,023 7 7	3,530,224 13 5	3,786,721 17 3	3,631,065 4 3

(Signed) T. B. STEPHEN,
Principal Collector.

Enclosure No. 3 in No. 1.

Enclosure No. 3 in No. 1.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

REPORT.

I HAVE the honour to submit to the Legislative Council the usual statement for the past year (July 1st, 1868, to June 30th, 1869).

2. It will be observed that I adhere to the form prescribed by the late School Commission, inasmuch as up to the close of the current year, the school system, and the grants awarded in conformity therewith, are to be regulated and administered as heretofore.

3. In addition to hints towards the framing of a re-modelled scheme, my Special Report to his Excellency the Governor embraces, (1) particulars respecting the comparative costliness of the present system (being at the rate of 114*l.* instead of 45*l.* per school), and (2) my general grounds of objection to so exclusive and partial a mode of distributing the public money, as the following Table will show:—

Kind of School.	Percentage of Net Government Expenditure on Schools.
Superior	35·6
English	10·5
Mixed and Vernacular	34·5
Aided	7·2

(the remaining 12·2 per cent. comprise the departmental expenses, cost of books, translations, scholarships, &c.).

4. I have also represented the desirability of initiating a revision of the entire system, by means of a collective examination of teachers, who have not hitherto been subjected to any qualification test whatsoever. I took an early opportunity of making expectant candidates acquainted with my intention; and, with the view of allaying all apprehension, I gave about six months' notice of the examination, and restricted the subjects to the barest essentials:—viz. reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, grammar, the composition of a short essay, school management, and the practice of the art of teaching.

5. The ready manner in which my appeal has been responded to is exhibited in the following return:—

	Applicants for Examination.	Applicants for Exemption.	Recommended for Exemption.	Total Number of Applicants to be examined.
Government Teachers (Male)—				
Head Teachers	23	54	45	32
Assistant ditto	50	48	29	69
Government Teachers (Female)—				
Head Teachers	8	12	4	16
Assistant ditto	2	7	7	2
Miscellaneous Candidates for Teachers' Certificate—				
Male	36	—	—	36
Female	7	—	—	7
Miscellaneous Candidates for Normal Studentship—				
Male	74	—	—	74
Mission Teachers—				
Male	52	—	—	52
Female	19	—	—	19
Total	271	121	85	307

Hence, for the first time in the history of the country, facilities are at length presented for classifying, reorganizing, and consolidating the professional staff as a whole, conferring the distinction of public recognition on the competent, and extruding from the ranks interlopers and incapables. The result of introducing a qualification test, however nominal in the first instance, will be the gradual elevation of the position of the teacher to an approximation to a legitimate standard, and thus the more aspiring will aim at higher prizes, whilst something like *esprit du corps* will be imparted to the profession at large.

6. On the 31st December, 1868, there were 122 Government schools in operation, numbering on the rolls at that date 7,481 pupils, with an average attendance during the year of 5,767. This shows an increase of 14 schools and of 932 pupils in the list, and 767 in the average attendance, as compared with the year 1867.

7. The percentage of scholars, who at the close of the year 1868 had attended the same Government schools, for periods varying from less than one year to more than five years, is as follows:—

Less than one year.	One year, and less than two years.	Two years, and less than three years.	Three years, and less than four years.	Four years, and less than five years.	Five years, and upwards.
41·98	22·96	16·99	7·91	4·49	5·65

CEYLON.

8. The percentage of pupils of the different ages from "under five" to "over fifteen" in the different classes of schools are shown in the following Table:—

SCHOOLS.	Under five years.	Between five and six years.	Between six and seven years.	Between seven and eight years.	Between eight and nine years.	Between nine and ten years.	Between ten and eleven years.	Between eleven and twelve years.	Between twelve and thirteen years.	Between thirteen and fourteen years.	Between fourteen and fifteen years.	Over fifteen years.
Colombo Academy - -	—	—	—	·27	1·63	1·63	5·43	6·79	17·93	12·50	14·13	39·67
Superior Schools - - -	—	—	·75	1·56	4·15	2·64	4·52	10·94	9·43	14·71	14·71	36·60
English Schools - -	·69	1·25	1·67	5·02	7·25	7·11	9·90	13·38	14·92	12·97	8·08	17·71
Mixed Schools - - -	·23	1·40	3·21	5·02	8·52	9·75	10·63	9·87	9·11	8·17	8·11	25·93
Vernacular Schools - -	·45	3·28	6·61	11·17	15·11	15·37	14·52	11·59	8·43	6·12	3·77	3·51
Superior Girls' Schools - -	2·35	3·82	·5	10·0	10·58	10·0	16·47	8·82	10·58	12·94	6·17	3·23
Mixed Girls' Schools - -	2·08	12·5	13·33	19·16	10·83	7·91	10·83	8·33	8·75	3·75	1·25	1·25
Vernacular Girls' Schools - -	1·08	8·86	8·67	15.55	18·98	13·56	12·65	9·22	7·05	2·53	·72	1·08
Total - - -	·57	3·11	5·07	8·75	11·64	11·43	12·15	10·68	9·75	7·88	5·94	12·96

9. The expenditure on account of education in the year 1868 amounted to 16,166*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*, showing an increase of 1,865*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, as contrasted with 1867, when the expenditure amounted to 15,301*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*

10. The following Table will show the amount voted, and the amount expended, on account of education during each of the last five years.

Years.	Voted. £	*s.*	*d.*	Expended. £	*s.*	*d.*
1864 - -	16,298	18	3	15,331	12	3¾
1865 - -	17,389	3	9	14,673	13	1
1866 - -	17,339	2	8	14,875	5	1¾
1867 - -	17,802	0	8	15,301	16	3¾
1868 - -	18,581	13	0	16,166	0	1

11. The sum of 25,144*l.* was voted for the expenditure of the current year, but of this a considerable amount will remain unexpended at the end of the year.

12. The amount realized by school fees in 1868 was 2,616*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, to which must be added 112*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*, being receipts on account of stationery, showing an increase in the receipts from schools in 1868, as compared with 1867, of 574*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*

13. Miss Gray, principal of the Superior Girls' School at Jaffna, who had proceeded to England on leave of absence, having resigned her post, Miss Towell, the first assistant teacher of the Kandy Girls' School, has been appointed to succeed her. Whether or not this school should be longer continued on its present footing, is a question to which the details given in my Special Report suggest a negative reply.

14. The amount of grants made to private and mission schools during the year 1868 was 935*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, being at the rate of 13*s.* 3¼*d.* per head upon the number of pupils (1,410) under instruction in such schools.

15. Since the date of the last Report the following schools have been opened:—A Boys' Vernacular School at Allubomulla, and a Girls' Vernacular School at Desaster Kalutara. The Boys' Mixed School at Madampe has been re-opened. The following schools have been closed:—the Boys' Mixed Schools at Teldeniya and Mábolé; and the Boys' Vernacular School at Maturata has been temporarily closed.

16. There were three candidates for the Turnour Prize of 1868. The prize was awarded to P. Arunasalem, but a second prize was given to E. R. Anthonisz, for the reasons stated in the Report of the examiners, which, together with the papers set, will be found in the Appendix.*

* The Appendix is not printed.

17. For the mathematical prize there were two candidates, both from the Colombo Academy. The successful candidate was E. R. Anthonisz. The examiner was H. W. Gillman, Esq., whose Report is appended.*

18. The results of the Seventh Local Examination, together with the Inspector's Report thereon, will also be found in the Appendix.*

19. The results of the last Examination at Queen's College and Colombo Academy, in connection with the University of Calcutta, was as follows:—

Passed First Examination in Arts.

J. C. Weeresooria	Third Division.
E. Jayesinghe	" "

Passed Entrance Examination.

G. E. Keuneman	Second Division.
G. C. Casie Chitty	" "
W. E. Pompeus	" "
J. H. Senanayeke	" "
J. A. Austin	Third Division.
A. Wambeek	" "
D. Goonewardene	" "

20. The Inspector's Reports, with the accompanying Tables, give every information as to the state of the Superior, English, and Mixed Schools in all the Provinces. Among these appears, I believe for the first time, a Report of the Inspector upon the condition of the Vernacular Schools of the Western Province, as ascertained by him in a tour of inspection, undertaken at my special desire in August of the present year.

21. Financial and statistical returns, prepared upon the plan adopted by the School Commission, will be found in the Appendices;* and I have added to them a tabulated statement, comparing Ceylon with India, which, I believe, will be found to be not without interest, and the merit of which belongs to Mr. Hill of Kandy Central School. * Not printed.

22. My thanks are due to the several Government agents and their assistants, for their aid in reference to the schools in their respective districts.

23. I cannot conclude this brief statement without calling attention to four cases, illustrative of the comparatively novel fact, that some approximation to a spirit of individual interest in popular education has at length begun to germinate. I allude to the Kandy Industrial School (aided), which has been resuscitated by a newly-formed and energetic local committee; to the foundation of two scholarships in connection with the Academy, by a former pupil, Mr. Rajapakse; to the establishment of a girls' school in the neighbourhood of the Colombo Industrial School, at the expense of Mr. C. de Soysa; and, lastly, the single-handed efforts of the Rev. C. Senanayeke to support seven schools within the area of his parish (in accordance with my letter of August 3rd) is also deserving of special mention.

24. I wish here to record an expression of the debt of gratitude I owe to Mr. Hill, Principal of Kandy Central School, for services freely and cordially rendered by him in connection with statistical tables of this and my Special Report. Considering the difficulty of collating the necessary particulars, I consider the Appendix comparing Ceylon with Indian educational features one of the most important contributions to the history of Eastern School systems that we possess. His suggestive hints of a general description have also been of infinite value to me.

J. S. LAURIE,
Director of Public Instruction.

HONG KONG.

HONG KONG.

No. 2.

No. 2.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor WHITFIELD to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 72.)

MY LORD, Government House, Hong Kong, September 14, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit for the information of your Lordship the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1869, together with a copy of the Report with which it has been submitted to me by the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. WHITFIELD.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

HONG KONG.

Enclosure in No. 2.

(Extract.) Enclosure in No. 2.

No. 405. Colonial Secretary's Office, Hong Kong,
SIR, September 10, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency, for transmission to the Secretary of State, the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1869.

Revenue.

2. The revenue for the year was 192,464*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*, showing an apparent decrease of 43,810*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.* as compared with 1868. In reality, however, there has been some increase, as credit was erroneously taken in 1868 for the sum of 55,659*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* arising from the Play-houses Licences.

Expenditure.

3. The expenditure, amounting to 192,309*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*, was much less than that of the preceding year; but this, as in the case of revenue, has arisen from exceptional causes, viz. the remittance, in 1868, of the then arrears of the Military Contribution, and the closing of the Mint in 1869.

Public Works, Roads, and Buildings.

4. The sums expended on public works and roads have been considerable, amounting to no less a sum than 39,958*l.* 13*s.* Of this, 17,093*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* have been spent on the Pokfoohun Water Works, which yet remain unfinished, and may be expected to draw largely on the resources of the Colony in 1870 and 1871. When completed, there will be no reason to regret the outlay, as proof has already been afforded during the past drought of the great benefits resulting from considerable water reserves, and the regular supply of the town therefrom.

Mint.

5. This establishment has now been effectually closed by the sale of the plant to the Japanese Government for the sum of $60,000. The buildings, too, have since been disposed of for $65,000, and thus the Colony has realized a total of $125,000 as the result of an outlay but three years previously of close on half a million of dollars. It is very melancholy to contemplate such results, knowing, as we do, with what great benefit the funds might have been applied to the erection of a hospital, the improvement of very defective sewerage, and the furtherance of those many public works and buildings which must, at no very distant date, entail very considerable expenditure.

City Hall.

6. The City Hall cannot in strict sense be called a public building, inasmuch as it has been erected by private individuals, and is under their entire control. Any allusion to it, therefore, in a Report upon the Blue Book might, under ordinary circumstances, be considered out of place. The opening, however, of this capacious and handsome building by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, on the 4th of November, was a circumstance of such deep interest to the colonists that it would be unwise to pass over an event which was a source of much pride and pleasure to them, and must be ever memorable in the annals of the Colony.

Population.

7. As compared with 1859, the population would appear to have greatly increased, viz. from 86,941 at the former date to 121,979 by the census of 1869; but the accuracy of earlier calculations seems to have been much questioned, and it would be as well to build no hopes upon any early increase, as without doubt the population has been pretty much the same through the years immediately preceding, viz.:—

Europeans and Americans - -	4,889
Indians and others of mixed blood -	2,810
Chinese - - - - -	114,280
	121,979

Emigration.

8. From the Harbour Master's Report the number of emigrants would appear to have greatly increased in 1869, being indeed in excess by 9,408 of the preceding year; but it must be clearly understood that the emigration is not from the Colony, and that it is simply owing to the rapidity and comfort of the vessels of the Pacific Steamship Company that Hong Kong is now being made the entrepôt of passenger traffic between China and the United States of America.

Two vessels were despatched to Surinam in the early part of 1869, and one was on the point of departure at the close of the year. With them, unless resumed for British Colonies, the system of emigration under contract through Hong Kong has been terminated.

Imports, Exports, and Shipping.

9. The port being free, no reliable information can be obtained in reference to imports and exports. That the trade of the Colony has, however, greatly increased is clear from the excess over 1868 of 45 British ships, measuring 41,615 tons, and of 135 foreign vessels (exclusive of Chinese), measuring 95,230 tons.

This large increase of shipping is apparently owing to extended traffic between the Colony, Australia, the United States, the Philippine Islands, and Japan, as trade to and from British India is much the same as in the preceding year.

Of the daily average of 107 vessels in port throughout the year, 18 per cent. were vessels propelled by steam; and although recent events may falsify the anticipations assumed by the Harbour Master at the beginning of the year, that the tonnage of 1870 would exceed that of any other year since the existence of the Colony, still the successful opening of the Suez Canal, the doubling of the number of steamers of the Messageries Impériales and Pacific Mail Company, and the formation of two additional local steam companies, leave little doubt of the undiminished importance of the Colony in connection with the trade of China and Japan.

Grants of Land.

10. The grants of land during the year have been trifling, viz. six lots at a yearly rental of 280*l.*, and one farm lot of six acres at Kowloon, at a rental of 1*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* The outlay of nearly $200,000 in this last-mentioned locality, with but little advantage as yet attained, cannot be otherwise than a source of some disappointment; but the establishment of the Union Dock, and the increased activity resulting from its connection with the Aberdeen and Whampoa Dock Company, gives some hope that Kowloon may yet become of some monetary value.

Gaols and Prisoners.

11. The number of prisoners committed to gaol for different crimes has been steadily reduced from 6,246 in 1865 to 3,059 in 1869, and the total number of prisoners convicted at the Supreme Court has decreased during the same period from 200 to 75.

There is very little doubt that to the system of deportation, as carried out by Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell, latter results are greatly owing; and I am satisfied that any relaxation will again make the increase as marked as was the decrease.

The gaol of Victoria is in a perfect state of repair, and reflects the greatest credit on the Superintendent, Mr. Douglas, for its discipline and general management.

Hospital.

12. It is much to be regretted that a similar Report cannot be given of the Civil Hospital, and of the arrangements made therein for the treatment of the many Europeans who are driven by a trying climate to claim medical relief. Many have been the adverse representations made by the Colonial Surgeon, and as frequent the consideration by the Government of plans for the erection of a new hospital, or for improvement of the old one; but want of funds, coupled with a desire to defer outlay until the plans could be carried out in a manner which would be creditable to the Colony, have interposed.

* * * * * *

I have, &c.,

Major-General Whitfield,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

HONG KONG.

Sub-enclosure 1 in No. 2.

Sub-enclosure 1 in No. 2.

(No. 13.)

SIR, Hong Kong, January 31, 1870.

I HAVE the honour of presenting to you the annual Report on the Government schools in this Colony for the year 1869.

2. Having entered so fully into the history of these schools in the last annual Report, I do not deem it necessary to do anything more in the present one than to refer to a few matters of detail.

3. The arrival of a third English master, in the course of last year, has added very considerably to the efficiency of the Central School. Subjects which, previously, could be attended to with great difficulty have now become a regular part of the school routine. Two new subjects, Chemistry and Geometry, have been added, and all the ordinary branches receive much greater attention than, in former years, could possibly be given to them. The additional assistance also enables the Head Master to have the whole school more completely under his own personal supervision. He is no longer what he really was before, simply the teacher of three of the classes. It may be safely said that the school has entered on a new stage of progress.

4. After long delay, the laboratory is at last in full working order. Considerable difficulty was experienced at first, partly from the defective state of the apparatus, which had been lying unused for about two years, and partly from my own inexperience.

5. The lessons in chemistry proceed slowly, but, it is to be hoped, surely. The aim attempted is not the mere amusement, but, as far as may be, the sound instruction of the boys in a department of science to which they have nothing corresponding in their own schools. Much interest in it is taken by them at present. It will be unfortunate if it is allowed to flag. It is not likely, however, that the indifference, real or assumed, of their countrymen to this and kindred studies will be any impediment here. The boys are too young in the art of dissimulation to feel that the gratification of a natural curiosity is a confession of inferiority.

6. Although additional assistance has been obtained, the number of scholars at the school has not been materially increased. This was not intended. With even a smaller attendance, there would be ample work for the present teachers, more especially as the gradual increase in the number of village schools necessitates the more frequent absence of the Head Master. The object to be gained is not, at present, the attraction of more scholars, but the thorough teaching of the school in its existing condition.

7. Through the liberality of his Excellency the Governor, The Honourable C. C. Smith, Dr. Murray, Mr. Gerrard, and Mr. Wai A-kwong, in addition to the sum placed on the estimates for the purpose, prizes of the value of two hundred and five dollars were awarded to the most deserving, at the recent public examination. The encouragement thus given to the school should not pass unnoticed; and the promises made for the coming year give good hope that the school has at last obtained the recognition to which it is not unfairly entitled. It is now time, when a stranger inquires, at public places in Queen's Road and elsewhere for the way to the Central School, that he should not inquire in vain.

8. The presence of a number of the parents and friends of the scholars at the late examination gives even greater encouragement than the liberality just alluded to. Hitherto, for reasons which it would be difficult to assign, the Chinese residents in the Colony have kept aloof from the school,—parents, even when living here, seldom take the trouble to come and ask admission for their sons. Whatever pleasure it may have given the boys to see this new feature in the day's proceedings, the pleasure felt by the teachers was of the most unqualified description. Nothing that has happened since the school was established has augured so well for its future prosperity.

9. It may not be out of place in this Report to allude to the admission into the school of boys other than Chinese. When the school was first made open to all, of whatever nationality, a few availed themselves of the privilege. They remained but a short time. They were evidently disappointed. Their expectations and objections will be referred to presently. I am aware that many are anxious for admission, but they hold back until the terms they dictate be acceded to.

10. By opening the school to all comers, it was apparently expected that a special class would be formed for such as do not wish to learn Chinese. Others, who do not object to learning Chinese, object to the school hours. They say that eight hours a day is too hard a task on the energies of the boys. Others, again, are exclusive, and wish their children to be kept entirely separate from the Chinese.

11. For a boy to come to the school and not to learn Chinese, it is simply a waste of time. There must be some common language as a medium of intercommunication between the

teacher and his class. Nine-tenths of the class are, and will be, Chinese. Translation from English into Chinese and from Chinese into English must therefore be the groundwork of the instruction, and, in the lower classes especially, the principal part of it. The mere reading of an English book will not, without a great waste of time, give the reader a knowledge of the language. The sooner he understands what he reads the better for his progress. For this reason, it is indispensable that every boy at the Central School should learn Chinese. Even an English boy, who understands what he reads, loses a great deal of time. When translation is the work of the class he must sit idle unless he knows Chinese.

12. The school hours are confessedly long, and if it were possible to curtail them it would be done. Practically this is impossible. Two languages have to be learnt, one at least of which is very difficult of acquirement by those to whom it is their mother-tongue. After eight years' experience, and after listening to many objections, I am only the more convinced that shorter hours are not consistent with the efficiency of the school.

13. To those who wish a separate class and class-room, only one thing can be said. The Central School is no place for them. This is not said from any want of sympathy with those who prefer the moral to the mental training of their children. Their objections are well known and felt to be powerful. But the practical conduct of the school is the problem to be solved, and with that exclusiveness is inconsistent. At the same time, if it were my province to say so, I should not hesitate to say that contact with the Chinese boys at this school would not be productive of half the harm to which children are constantly exposed by being left, as they are, so much in the hands of Chinese servants. This is a subject, however, which cannot be discussed further here.

14. There are now six Indian boys, principally Parsees, in the school. These make no objections to learning Chinese, and some of them acquire it rapidly. One of them carried off the first prize in the fourth class, which numbers thirty-four, although two of the subjects of examination—subjects, too, with the highest marks—were translation. How such boys could advance at all for a few years, without a knowledge of Chinese, it is not possible to imagine.

15. The conclusion to be derived from a consideration of the whole question is this, that unless the school is to be re-organized, to be, in a measure, diverted from the original and important purpose for which it was founded, and to be conducted at many times its present cost, it is impossible to make it acceptable to those who will not take it as it is.

16. The state of the village schools needs this year no special consideration. What they are, and how they are conducted, how they advance and how they fall off, with the reasons for this, as far as they can be assigned, are points which have been too frequently mentioned to require repetition. The system of grants-in-aid, instead of complete support, is slowly advancing. Three such schools were added during the year,—the one at Ap-li Chau receiving a free site, and those at Hung-hòm and T'ò-kwa Wán the usual allowance of five dollars a month.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) FREDERICK STEWART,
Inspector of Government Schools.

The Honourable J. Gardiner Austin, Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

Sub-enclosure 2 in No. 2.

Sub-enclosure 2 in No. 2.

(No. 20.) Harbour Master's Department, Victoria, Hong Kong,
SIR, February 21, 1870.

1. I HAVE the honour to forward the following Annual Returns of Shipping and other matters connected with the Department under my control.*

* These Returns are not printed.

Shipping.

2. It is satisfactory to find that the trade of the Colony in 1869 shows an improvement on that of the previous year, and although the difference of grand total of European shipping and of junks is but 23,593 tons, the excess in British ships is 45 vessels measuring 41,615 tons, and in foreign shipping, exclusive of Chinese, is 135 vessels with a capacity of 95,230 tons, or a total of 180 ships and 136,845 tons, the difference being made up by loss on the junk trade.

HONG KONG.

3. This large increase of trade is mostly due to the extended traffic between the Colony and Australasia, the United States, the Philippine Islands, and Japan.

4. The trade between this and British India remains nearly the same.

5. The amount of tonnage arriving during the current year will probably exceed that of any other similar period during the Colony's existence.

6. The successful opening of the Suez Canal, the anticipated doubling the number of steamers belonging to the Messageries Impériales and to the Pacific Mail Company, together with two newly-formed local steam-ship companies, will add immensely to the activity, progress, and, it is to be hoped, wealth of the Island.

7. The total average of ships of all classes exclusive of Chinese and native craft lying here daily was, in January, 109; February, 100; March, 81; April, 78; May, 73; June, 90; July, 100; August, 103; September, 138·4; October, 154; November, 132·5; and December, 131·3; or the daily average throughout the year was 107·5; 18·7 per cent. being vessels propelled by steam.

Junk Trade.

8. On this subject I am not able to report favourably. During the year there has been a falling off in arrivals of 2,222 vessels equal to 113,252 tons. It is, however, satisfactory to find that this decrease is not the result of local legislation, as in my last annual Report I was able to show an increase of tonnage in 1868 as compared with 1867 of 142,996 tons.

9. In the 13th paragraph of that Report I alluded to the action of the Chinese Government in having then recently established Customs stations in the vicinity of the Colony. I think the decrease of tonnage in junks can reasonably be attributed to the existence of these stations and to the activity of the cruisers attached to them.

10. Whether the result of this policy has been beneficial to the Chinese Imperial treasury it is difficult to say, but it is a fair assumption, unsatisfactory though it be, that if the junk trade of Hong Kong has decreased, so in proportion must that of the ports with which the vessels traded.

11. Although the close blockade kept up by these cruisers appears to be producing a bad effect on the native shipping of the Colony, it may eventually result in the supersession of junks by European vessels as carriers, to the ultimate advantage of the foreign ship-builder and trader.

12. Between the cruisers and the rumoured possible appointment of a Chinese Consul at Hong Kong, the destruction of trade in native vessels and ruin of the seafaring population of China trading with Hong Kong seems imminent.

13. Of the arrivals of junks, those from Macao show a diminution of 298 measuring 51,227 tons, so that the neighbouring Colony would appear to be suffering equally with ourselves and probably from the same cause.

14. In a few instances junk masters have reported that officers from the Chinese revenue cruisers have searched their vessels whilst in Colonial waters, when prompt measures have been taken to obtain redress and to prevent a recurrence of the offence. The constant cruising of the 'Victoria' outside the harbour and visits of the 'Blanche' have doubtless been an effective check on the proceedings of Chinese officials in these matters.

15. An important Commission was appointed by his Excellency, consisting of officials and merchants, to inquire into the result of the application of the Harbour and Coasts Ordinance (No. 6 of 1866) to the Colony, and to determine if any and what changes the present immunity of the Colonial waters from piracy rendered desirable. The Commissioners' Report is in the hands of the Government.

Emigration.

16. In the return under this head it will be found that there has been an increase of 9,408½ adults, or 47·4 per cent. on the return for 1868.

17. The increased traffic is principally to San Francisco, which is resuming the position it held in that respect previous to the American war.

18. The rapidity and greater comfort offered by the vessels of the Pacific Steam-ship Company have obtained them great success, native passengers preferring this mode of conveyance to that by sailing vessels. 69 per cent. of the Chinese conveyed to San Francisco during the year have gone by those steamers.

19. A report was circulated in the Colony that women kidnapped in the province of

Annam were placed on board these vessels to be conveyed to California for purposes of prostitution.

20. Every measure which suggested itself to the Government with a view to ascertaining the truth of the rumour was adopted: his Excellency the Governor, the Attorney-General, the Registrar-General, the police, and some natives of Annam visited the ships to examine for themselves. The circulators and believers of the report were urged to give up their authority or produce some proof of the truth of their statements. At length the report was stated to have emanated from some Jesuit priests residing at Macao, who were also questioned, but who declared themselves unable to say anything beyond "having "heard that such was the case."

21. A ship was laid on during the year for the conveyance of contract labourers to Peru. Emigration to that country from Macao had attained so unenviable a notoriety, that the captain and owner of a Belgian ship thought to try the experiment of despatching a number of Chinese from Hong Kong in order to ascertain if a system could not be organized here that should be free from censure.

22. A draft contract was submitted to, and after some alteration approved by the Government, which had no legal power at the time to prevent such emigration. The amended contract contained a special stipulation prohibiting the employment of the labourers in the working of guano. Two emigration depôts were opened at West Point, and at first Chinese came in tolerably freely. During the first month 200 had been medically examined and registered in the books of this Department.

23. This apparent success of the scheme did not, however, last long, and coolies presented themselves in many instances only to avail of the good food and lodging which the depôt offered. Many left to seek employment elsewhere, whilst others were induced by small advances and promises of a better contract to find their way to Macao, where they have been finally shipped on terms not nearly so favourable.

24. This scheme cannot be said to have succeeded, as the ship did not get her complement of passengers until the first week in January last; 762 having been registered, whilst 382 only actually left the port, the absentees being at the rate of 50 per cent. It remains to be seen whether on arrival in Peru the terms of the contract will be fulfilled.

25. The Home Government and Chargé d'Affaires at Lima having lists of the persons embarked, as also copies of the contracts entered into, it may be presumed that no evasion of their contents will be attempted.

26. A large demand for labour in the Southern States of America, as also a request for a further supply of Chinese for Dutch Guiana has met with a check so far as the contract system in Hong Kong is concerned, the Home Government having prohibited it, except to British Possessions and in British ships.

27. The American Agents have, however, decided to obtain the labour, leaving the Chinese free on arrival at New Orleans to enter into any agreement they may choose.

28. This is a novel and doubtful experiment, but the demand for labour in these States appears so urgent that it is considered worth the cost of a trial. It is thought success may attend it on the assumption that the Chinese, although now only verbally promising to serve a term of years (varying from three to five) will consider themselves morally bound to complete a contract on arrival at their destination if it is in keeping with the promises held out to them here. It has, however, been fully explained to those that have passed through this office that their freedom of action is undoubted, and they have been assured, in the presence of the United States' Consul, who was good enough to be present on the occasion of 140 being questioned, that they have the same protection in the country to which they are proceeding as they find in Hong Kong.

29. These emigrants are procured without the intervention of Chinese brokers, an extensive circulation of notices in the Colony and neighbouring villages being the only means employed to obtain them. This system will doubtless in the first instance prove a slow process, but the Agents trust to the favourable reports sent to China by the earlier arrivals to enable them to engage labourers more rapidly during the fall of the present year.

Registry of Shipping.

30. Sixteen vessels have been registered and thirteen have been struck off during the year.

Seamen.

31. Although there has been a larger amount of shipping frequenting the port during the year, there is no great difference in the number of seamen shipped and discharged, the year under review exhibiting 7,113 of the former and 6,713 of the latter.

HONG KONG.

Marine Magistrate's Court.

32. 239 cases have been tried as against 198 in 1868, the principal complaints being those of refusal of duty.

Examinations for the Posts of Masters and Mates in the Mercantile Marine.

33. Of forty applicants for examination under this Ordinance, 20 per cent. failed to obtain certificates. This is a large proportion, but is owing to the want of opportunities for study and the means of preparation for examination.

I have, &c.,
(Signed H. G. THOMSETT, R.N.,
Harbour Master, &c.

The Honourable J. Gardiner Austin, Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 25.)

SIR, Registrar General's Office, Hong Kong, March 8, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book returns for last year which are connected with this department.

Owing to my having so lately resumed the duties of my post, I am unable to furnish a general Report of the doings of the past year, and will therefore only refer to one or two subjects connected with the Chinese community, which are matters of interest and worthy of note.

Perhaps the most important point to which I should call attention is the manifest desire shown by the more substantial and intelligent members of the native community to take a part in public matters and to render some assistance to the Government in Chinese affairs.

This feeling took an active form, when in 1867, the inhabitants of the several districts of this city, acting on the provisions of certain sections in the Registration Ordinance, recommended a body of men as district watchmen to be paid for by themselves, whose duties should be connected with the Chinese portion of the city.

These men have done good service during the past year, and continue to render valuable assistance in preventing and detecting crime.

Again, regard for the wants of the destitute sick led the Chinese compradores, merchants, and others to consider the feasibility of building and supporting a hospital. This matter has been under consideration and discussion for about three years, out of which has been matured a scheme likely to meet adequately the charitable object in view.

The subscription lists show that the collections have already reached $47,000. By Government a site, near Possession Point, has been granted, and on this the buildings, calculated to hold about 140 patients, will be erected. In addition, however, a donation of $15,000 from the special fund has been devoted towards the expenses of the undertaking.

That the institution will be well conducted, and be a great boon to those for whom it is intended there is every prospect.

Three doctors of good repute will be engaged, on one of whom will specially devolve the task of vaccinating all those brought for that purpose to the hospital. There is at present a native doctor who, on four stated days in each month, attends for this purpose at the neighbouring building, and he reports having been successful in 275 cases since the 14th December last. The system adopted is that which is in vogue in western countries, while to ensure as far as possible that the patient be brought back to the vaccinator after the expiration of seven days, the fee of twenty cents is promised to be returned, and this inducement has in almost every case had the desired effect.

The Fire Brigade still meets with the hearty co-operation of the Chinese, who have now on foot the establishing of a Salvage Corps to work with the brigade.

To refer to the trade of the native population, of course, as usual, it is impossible to forward accurate returns, and the department has to depend for information on the statements of different leading firms. But one and all concur in the fact that a great depression still continues, and in some instances, as cotton, is very marked. It is stated that in respect of this article only 110,000 bales have been exported in place of 200,000 in the previous year, while of rice there has passed through Hong Kong only the small amount of 335,000

peculs. The abundant harvest, however, of 1868 will account in a great measure for the falling off in so important an article of trade.

In sugar it is estimated that the native trade did not exceed 150,000 bags, thus showing a considerable decrease compared with previous years.

That sold from the refinery at East Point is not, I learn, much consumed by the Chinese here, as it is dearer than the other sugar, and does not possess, in their opinion, the same amount of sweetness.

It may be interesting to note that of live stock (the majority of which comes from T'am-Shui, in a neighbouring district) about 39,600 pigs, 9,000 bullocks, and 3,240 sheep have been slaughtered in the eastern and western slaughter houses for the use of the community and shipping.

In the markets there has been an increasing improvement in the meat and vegetables therein sold, and both are slightly cheaper. Indeed as regards the latter they frequently compare well with those grown in the numerous private gardens in the Colony.

The dealers, however, complain of a depression in this trade and report sales amounting only to $146,000 against $165,000 in the previous year. Still the revenue derived by Government from the various lettings in the markets being in 1869 $31,941·08 against $32,131·18, showing a decrease of $190·10, exhibits the fact that in the different kinds of business a thriving state continues.

The trade in salt fish remained on the decrease, as had been the case since the establishment of the cordon of revenue stations in our neighbourhood. Ping-chow and Tam-Tsai opposite Macao, have apparently reaped the benefit of the falling off of the trade here, but I am glad to report that this year has opened with a great improvement, and the dealers in this important trade are anticipating better times than the last three years have produced.

A large business has been done in prepared opium, the exports to Australia and California reaching an aggregate of about 2,562,000 taels in weight. The value of this opium is 5 mace and 5 candareens of silver per tael, so that the value of the amount exported was $1,950,000. In Hong Kong about 648,000 taels weight was purchased.

The rent of Chinese houses has fallen about 25 per cent. There was very little building during the year, and there are about 250 houses in some of the principal streets alone empty and unoccupied.

In the few buildings, however, both in the foreign and native districts, which have been erected or restored, attention has been paid to a recognized system, which has a decided tendency towards utility as well as appearance.

In conclusion I may refer to the Ordinances which are peculiarly connected with this department. The Registration Ordinance still works satisfactorily, and under it 663 householders have been registered, while the re-registration or removals amounted to 169, thus showing the changeable nature of the native population in the Colony. Regarding the registration of servants, matters remain almost *in statu quo*, owing to the lack of co-operation on the part of employers.

The special watchmen complain that they are unable to display the same success as formerly, owing to the manifest decrease in crime. They have been engaged in forty-eight cases of any note in the police courts.

The Contagious Diseases Ordinance, 1867, well serves the aim and object of Government in passing such a measure; what is now most wanted is the building of a suitable and commodious hospital. The control of the registered houses is good, and it is believed that but few breaches of the Ordinance are committed. It is noteworthy how the feeling at home is changing on this subject, and how rapidly the opinion of the necessity of extending the powers of the Act (on which the Ordinance is founded) is gaining ground. There is not, I believe, any general feeling in Hong Kong, amongst those who interest themselves in public affairs, against the working of such a legislative measure here, but I may add that the magisterial functions exercised and the method of procedure which is clearly defined by the Ordinance, are based entirely on the provisions of the Imperial Act.

During the year sixty-one cases were heard in this Office, of which nine were dismissed, convictions being obtained in the remaining number. The amount of fines paid was $329.

I have, &c.,

The Honourable J. Gardiner Austin, Colonial Secretary.

(Signed) CECIL C. SMITH, Registrar General.

HONG KONG.

(No. 19.)

SIR, General Post Office, Hong Kong, March 19, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to present to His Excellency Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell, C.B., the tenth annual Report on the Post Office, being that for the year 1869.

2. The alterations of any importance which have taken place in the postal service are as follows, viz.:—

3. The Imperial Postmaster-General consented to an application made by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company that they might be allowed to convey the Yokohama mails from and to Hong Kong direct, instead of viâ Shanghai as theretofore.

4. This change doubtless afforded satisfaction to the mercantile community of Yokohama, whose correspondence with the United Kingdom viâ Suez is materially expedited by the new arrangement.

5. The time allowed for the voyage from Hong Kong to Yokohama during the north-east monsoon is 170 hours, and in the south-west monsoon an extra allowance of 24 hours is made for the packets from Yokohama; but the service has not been satisfactorily performed hitherto. The packets nearly always exceed the time allowed, and in one case more than thirteen days were occupied in the voyage to Yokohama with a fair monsoon. These delays are attributable to various causes, the most important of which are that the direct course from Hong Kong to Yokohama has been little travelled, and is not yet thoroughly surveyed, and furthermore it traverses the region of typhoons and constant bad weather. On two occasions during the year, the homeward British contract packets started after their appointed time owing to the late arrival of the mail from Yokohama.

6. The practice referred to in the 15th paragraph of the last Report on the Post Office, under which mails brought to Yokohama by United States' packets were forwarded to Shanghai by British packets when time could be thus saved, and mails brought to Hong Kong by British packets were, under similar circumstances, forwarded to Yokohama by United States' packets has, under the new plan for performing the Japan mail service, necessarily come to an end.

7. The book and pattern post has been re-established between Hong Kong and the Australian Colonies.

8. A reduction has been made in the rates of postage chargeable on packets of printed papers and patterns if under 2 ounces in weight sent between the United Kingdom and Hong Kong. This alteration applies to all printed papers other than newspapers, and to price lists, printed circulars, and market reports.

9. The registration of letters and other descriptions of correspondence and the transmission of book packets, and packets of samples of merchandise at low rates of postage, between Hong Kong and each of the postal agencies in China and Japan, and also between any two of such agencies, has been sanctioned both as regards articles sent in the mails by private ships, and those sent by the British contract packets.

10. Arrangements have been completed for the transmission of mails by the fast opium steamers plying between Calcutta, the Straits, and Hong Kong. These steamers are now classed as Indian mail packets, instead of as private vessels, and the correspondence thus conveyed is governed by the same rules as to rates of postage and conditions of transmission as govern the correspondence sent by the British contract packets.

11. The privilege granted some years ago to officers serving on board Her Majesty's ships of war abroad, of sending and receiving their letters at a reduced rate of postage, and which was subsequently extended to officers in the army serving abroad and in the Colonies, ceased at the end of the year.

12. The route by Brindisi has been adopted since November last for the transmission of letters and papers addressed to the United Kingdom and to places beyond the United Kingdom. The adoption of this route has been urged by the Italian government on the grounds that accelerations have taken place in the Italian railroad services, and that improvements have been made in the harbour of Brindisi. The public nevertheless do not appear to have sufficient confidence in the facilities afforded, and only 308 letters and 71 papers have been sent in the eight mails despatched up to this date, and about an equal number have been received since the inauguration of the new route in London in September.

13. The Postmaster-General of the United States has discontinued the employment of the postal agents heretofore in charge of the mails conveyed by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's steamers on the line between Hong Kong and San Francisco, and their duties have been assigned to the pursers of these vessels; the French Post Office has also withdrawn the Post Office agents on the line between Hong Kong and Shanghai; the mails by French packets are now exchanged between this Office and the British Post Office at Shanghai instead of as formerly, with the Post Office agents on board those packets.

14. A reciprocal exchange of books, pamphlets, and patterns, in the mails transmitted

between Hong Kong, Yokohama, San Francisco, and the United States generally, by the United States' packets, has been carried into operation. HONG KONG.

15. The whole of the postal agencies in China and Japan have been thoroughly inspected during the past year, and the result of the examination thereof was submitted in my letter of the 23rd September last, No. 57.

16. The advantages derivable from occasional personal inspections of these agencies are manifold, both to the public and to the members of the postal service generally. Opportunities are thereby afforded to the Postmaster-General of seeing with his own eyes that adequate facilities are at all times afforded to the public in the receipt, transmission, and delivery of their letters, and of effecting such improvements as circumstances may require. I therefore embody in this Report such portions of the Report of the tour of inspection as may be useful.

17. At all the ports, except Shanghai and Yokohama, the Post Office duties are performed by consular officers, (who are, in some cases, the junior officers of the service;) and, on this account, it is not to be expected that the work can be so thoroughly done as it would be by experienced officers of this department; at the same time, I observed that they took some interest in the effective fulfilment of the postal labour imposed upon them. A complete code of instructions for their use has been printed and forwarded for their guidance.

18. Arrangements have been made for the continuance of the amalgamation of the British and Local Post Offices at Shanghai.

19. Communication between Shanghai and Hong Kong by the British and French mail packets and the numerous other vessels now running is constant, and under the new agreement the Local Post Office of Shanghai has undertaken to hand to the agent of this department all loose letters received from Hong Kong. The British Office at Shanghai is largely availed of and the duties are performed satisfactorily to the public, who, among other advantages, reap the full benefit of the system of sorting their letters at sea, without any charge whatever. The system of sorting the mails at sea between Hong Kong and Singapore, and between Hong Kong and Shanghai has been successfully carried on.

20. The building occupied conjointly by the British and Local Post Offices is not well situated.

21. A new Post Office has been erected at Yokohama on a plot of ground obtained from the Government of Japan, and it is now occupied. This building being near the Hatoba and centrally situated, is found convenient and equal to the requirements of the public. The present prospects of this agency are however by no means brilliant, and I feel sure that so soon as the public have full confidence in the regular and speedy transmission of mails to the United Kingdom viâ San Francisco and New York much of the correspondence will be sent and received by that route.

22. In paragraph 12 of the Report of 19th July, 1867, it was estimated that some additional expenditure would be necessary at Yokohama, and since then a clerk at $720 per annum and a schroff at $216 per annum have been appointed to the agency there.

23. Yokohama was not at that time, however, a place of call for the contract packets, as it is now, and therefore all the revenue collected on local letters sent and received accrued to the Colony; as these letters are now carried by the contract packets, almost exclusively, the revenue goes to the Imperial Post Office; in fact since the British packets commenced running under contract, the business of the Yokohama Post Office has been, with but little or no exception, for the benefit of the Imperial Post Office; at the same time, like the other agencies, it collects and delivers letters the postage on which swells the general colonial revenue of the department.

24. The completion of the Pacific Railway from San Francisco to New York has necessarily diverted most of the letters for the United States from their former course of transmission by the English packets, viâ Marseilles and viâ Southampton, to the more direct and quicker route now afforded by the United States' packets running from Yokohama viâ San Francisco.

25. The discontinuance of the British mail contract line between Shanghai and Yokohama has an injurious effect upon the revenue of the Yokohama Post Office, whilst the French Post Office also deprives it of some of its business.

26. At Nagasaki the opportunities of sending and receiving mails have considerably diminished. At present the United States' mail packets to and from Shanghai afford the only regular means of communication, but as I mentioned in the Report of my tour, I was unsuccessful in the attempt I made to get these vessels to carry the small English mails between Shanghai and Nagasaki; arrangements have been made, however, under which some of the merchants at Nagasaki have their correspondence sent to firms at Shanghai, who repost it at the Amerian Post Office there to be forwarded in the United States' mails

Hong Kong.

to Nagasaki; and therefore some of the inconvenience which might otherwise have been experienced at Nagasaki has been averted; but much inconvenience, which I regret I am unable to remedy, is still felt from the non-receipt of home mails at regular intervals; as it often occurs that two or three mails from home reach Nagasaki at the same time, owing to their having been delayed at Shanghai for want of an opportunity to send them across.

27. In view of the reduction in the business of the Post Office agency at Nagasaki, the salary of the agent has been reduced from 100*l.* to 40*l.* per annum; the expenses of that agency have recently been in excess of the revenue.

28. At Hiogo the Post Office agency has been in existence so short a time that it is unnecessary to say more than that, from the representations made to me and from information gained on the spot, its establishment will, I feel sure, be a boon to the inhabitants of Hiogo and the adjacent ports of Kobe and Osaca.

29. At the ports of Swatow, Foochow, Ningpo, and Nagasaki, the Consulates are so much more distant from the achorage of the steamers than are the merchants' quarters, that very few letters, except those to be forwarded by the mail packets from Hong Kong, are put into the post offices, therefore most of the letters for Hong Kong are placed loosely on board, and in many cases, I fear, are handed to the steamers' agents here, who distribute them without the agency of the Post Office, a practice which I regret to say all efforts to put an end to have failed; it is, however, right to say that the agents of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, of the Messageries Impériales, and of the Pacific Mail Company are exceptions.

30. At Canton and Amoy, although the Consulates are conveniently situated, the number of letters for Hong Kong which are posted is very inconsiderable; in fact at all the places mentioned in this and the previous paragraphs, the post offices are used chiefly for the receipt and delivery of letters to and from home, the sale of postage stamps, and in exceptional cases, for the registration of letters. I am satisfied that no possible alteration that could be made would induce the merchants to send their letters through the Post Office while the steamers are close at hand, and while they offer the advantage of a later receipt of letters than the Post Office can possibly give.

31. Under the provisions of Clause 3 of Ordinance No. 8 of 1862, correspondence sent betwen Canton and Hong Kong is exempt from the exclusive privilege of the Post Office, and it is therefore not to be expected that the public will pass their letters through the post when they can lawfully send and receive them otherwise free of charge.

32. The number of Chinese letters daily sent between Hong Kong and Canton is very large. Various offices for their receipt exist at both places, and on the passage they are taken charge of by a man who travels for the purpose, or by some one connected with the steamer who has a share in the enterprise; on arrival they are delivered and a fee of about 30 cash or three cents each is collected; no system of prepayment of postage exists.

33. It is not, in my opinion, desirable to interfere with the practice, as every means would of course be taken by the Chinese to evade the law if it were made incumbent upon them to send their letters through this office, so long as the rate of postage exceeded that charged by private offices, and were it reduced to the same level, the revenue would probably be more than swamped by the additional expenditure incurred. As regards the correspondence of foreigners it is very doubtful whether or not they would avail themselves to any extent of the security the Post Office affords if the postage was considerably reduced.

34. The money order system is much used at Amoy. There is no office there however, the place not containing inhabitants enough to justify the establishment of a Money Order Office yet, even if there were no difficulties in the way of doing so; but the Post Office agent procures money orders from this office for all who apply to him, remitting with his requisition the probable amount required to pay for them, and receiving back any excess in such remittances in postage stamps.

35. It was suggested in the Chamber of Commerce here on the 9th August last, that, on account of the vast importance of the trade of Foochow and the great revenue which the Imperial Government derives from the duties on tea exported therefrom, and also because it sometimes occurs that the Foochow steamer reaches Hong Kong just after the homeward mail has departed, or in too short a time before her departure, to enable the merchants to do their business and save the mail, that steamers should be subsidized for carrying the mails to and from Hong Kong at the cost of the Imperial Post Office.

36. Whatever the claims of the Foochow community or those of their agents here may be to such an advantage, I look upon the matter as one of some importance to this Colony, and I feel satisfied that unless some step is taken to improve the mail service, much of the business which now comes to Hong Kong will, with the frequent and regular communication afforded by the four steamers running to Shanghai, diverge to that place.

37. There are two lines of steamers in existence between Hong Kong and Foochow, each

calling at Swatow and Amoy on both their up and down trips, one belonging to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and the other to Messieurs Douglas Lapraik and Company; the former run at somewhat irregular intervals, and the latter very regularly.

38. The estimated distance from Hong Kong to Swatow is 180 miles; from Swatow to Amoy, 120 miles; and from Amoy to Pagoda Anchorage, 175 miles.

39. The voyages are at present generally made thus: the steamers leave Hong Kong at say 2 P.M. and arrive at Swatow at about 8 A.M. the next morning, leaving Swatow for Amoy at 5 P.M. and reaching that port at 5 A.M. the next morning; they then leave Amoy for Foochow (Pagoda Anchorage) at 3 P.M. and reach there at 9 A.M. the next morning, giving a steaming time of about forty-eight hours, and nineteen hours in port at Swatow and Amoy.

40. The vessels generally remain at Foochow three or sometimes four days, and return to Hong Kong in about the same time as that occupied in the upward voyage, generally arriving back in Hong Kong on the ninth or tenth day after having left here, and they usually remain for five or six days discharging and loading for the return trip.

41. The prompt transmission from Hong Kong to Foochow of the mails from home is not of the same importance as the regular despatch of mails from Foochow to Hong Kong, whilst to the steamer owners it is most important to have a liberal allowance of time at Hong Kong after the arrival of the English mail, and the time of departure from Foochow is not usually of much importance, as the cargo carried from Foochow to Hong Kong is insignificant when compared with that carried in the contrary direction.

42. Under these circumstances, therefore, the payment of any subsidy would really be for the privilege of despatching the steamers *from* Foochow at times convenient to the mail services and to the requirements of the foreign merchants. At present, the vessels of Messrs. Lapraik and Co. notedly arrive and depart at intervals of about the same extent as would be required of them for the mail service, but the owners of course now hasten or delay their departure as best for their own interests; the Chinese being large shippers, as I understand, the arrival and departure of English mails is not of much moment to them.

43. The arrangement I have suggested is that an offer be made to the owners of one or other or both the lines of steamers to give them half of the revenue derived from the local correspondence carried to and fro, conditionally upon all letters being duly handed over to the Post Office agents at each of the ports touched at, with a penalty of $20 for each letter otherwise conveyed save and except (such as are exempt by law), viz. the letters of the owners or of the consignees of cargo then on board the vessel.

44. Such an arrangement would, I am satisfied, materially increase the colonial revenue, experience having fully convinced me on a recent journey from Foochow that immense numbers of letters are systematically carried in Lapraik' s vessels and handed over to the steamer's agents at each of the ports named, and I believe that many are almost as regularly brought here in the same manner and delivered by the agents to the persons to whom they are addressed.

45. As the payment suggested would not be sufficient to induce the owners of the steamers to accede to the above proposal, the Imperial Post Office should be called upon to contribute a further sum, in addition to the proposed payment from local funds, towards the maintenance, as suggested, of a regular communication with Foochow in connection with the mail steamers. The more especially so as the greater part of the correspondence to be forwarded to and from Foochow would consist of letters upon which the Imperial Post Office receives a large proportion of the postage.

46. The bulk of the mails will be a matter of little or no consideration, as the mail for Swatow seldom exceeds one bag, and those for Amoy and Foochow seldom exceeds three bags each.

47. The terms of any contract should be assimilated, I think, where possible, to those contained in the contract made between the Postmaster-General of Great Britain and the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company on the 19th November, 1867.

48. These suggestions are thrown out with a careful regard to all legitimate interests and the ever-growing wants of the public.

HONG KONG.

(No. 68.)

SIR, Victoria, Hong Kong, March 30, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to submit the Crime Return called for in C.S.O. No. 609 of 1st December, 1869.

* Appendices not printed.

2. I also enclose the annual Report of this department, with Appendices,* for the year ending 31st December, 1869, and a comparative statement of offences reported to have been committed during the six months ending 31st December, 1865, and the six months ending 31st December, 1869; which was called for by his Excellency the Governor. From the latter it will be seen that not only have serious offences decreased 51·0 per cent. and minor offences 45·6 during these four years, but the working of the police as tested by the percentages of persons convicted and discharged has greatly improved.

3. During the present year the telegraph line has been commenced, the Gap and West Point circuits are already finished, and before many days Captain Shaw expects to have the Shau'-ki-wan line complete.

4. The scheme which I proposed for the classification of the Chinese contingent came into force on the 1st instant. Besides resulting in a considerable saving to Government, the prospect of promotion, which did not before exist, will, I think, improve the working of the men.

5. Since the beginning of the year, I have increased the duty of men at out-stations from six to eight hours daily. During the Chinese New Year the men in Victoria cheerfully performed eight hours work, and for fourteen days two-thirds of the whole force was out from 10 P.M. until 6 A.M.; but the regular duty of men at head-quarters, who have drill, school, police court, fire brigade inspections, &c., to attend, cannot be permanently increased.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. VANDELEUR CREAGH,
Acting Captain Superintendent.

The Honourable J. Gardiner Austin, Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

Population of Hong Kong and British Kowloon, exclusive of shipping and boat population—98,535.†

Strength of the police of all grades on 31st December, exclusive of water police, guards over gaols and other public buildings, men employed on special duty—385.

Proportion of police to population,—one policeman to 255 persons.‡

The Crime Returns for 1869 compare very favourably with those for last and previous years.

From the subjoined statement it will be seen that serious offences have decreased 22·6 per cent., minor offences 18·4 per cent., and all crimes 19·3 per cent.; as compared with similar returns for 1868.

Year.	Serious Offences.	Decrease.	Minor Offences.	Decrease.	All Offences.	Decrease.
1868 - - -	1,249	—	4,456	—	5,705	—
1869 - -	967	282	3,634	822	4,601	1,104

Only three of the five cases of murder reported during the year were committed in this Colony. In one the prisoners were brought here for trial, the crime having occurred on board the British barque 'Nile,' off Borneo.

Of the three cases which occurred in this Colony the most atrocious were those of Mr. Holworthy, Assistant Superintendent Military Stores Department, and of Police Sergeant Mahoney.

1. Mr. Holworthy was attacked when walking at mid-day on one of the hill-roads on 24th January; the object appears to have been robbery solely. Within two weeks information was received that the stolen property—a watch and chain—was in a Chinese district about 40 miles from Hong Kong. In May the names of the four men said to have been implicated in the murder were obtained and in July and August two of them were arrested, and the watch recovered in Chinese territory, by the co-operation of Mandarin Chiên Táng.

† This is probably much less than the real number of inhabitants, but the figures have been taken from the last census return.

‡ This proportion of police to the population is smaller than that which prevails in some Indian towns, where the duties are by no means so difficult.

The two prisoners were subsequently tried, convicted, and sentenced to decapitation in Canton by the Chinese authorities, as there exist no means, under any treaty, of claiming the rendition of Chinese guilty of crime on British soil.

2. The murder of Police Sergeant Mahoney arose from a piratical attack on the village of Shau'-ki-wan, by a party of twenty-eight armed men who landed from a junk. They were observed by two Punjaubee constables on duty, who showed much courage in resisting them, and were both severely wounded. Sergeant Mahoney hearing the report of fire-arms, hastened to their assistance; but appears to have been killed before he could use his arms. In this case, four men were convicted and sentenced to death; but they were subsequently released,—the principal witnesses for the prosecution having been convicted of perjury.

3. On the night of the 18th February four armed men landed from a sampan in Deep-Bay, and attacked a lonely hut which is situated close to the beach, and was at that time inhabited by a fisherman named Chü-a-Cheŭng and his wife. In attempting to protect his property the fisherman received a wound in the neck, from which he died a lingering death in hospital. The robbers having ransacked the hut, and transferred the few articles worth taking to the sampan, shoved off, and were out of sight long before the woman, who made the report at the Stanley Station, returned with the police.

In this case no clue has ever been obtained, nor under the circumstances was it from the first at all probable that evidence would be forthcoming, as all the parties implicated had so speedily escaped beyond the jurisdiction of the local courts.

4. Three Greeks were charged with piracy and murder in the neighbourhood of Shanghai, and were arrested, two by the local police in Hong Kong, and one by a Shanghai constable, in Macao. In consequence of there being no Greek Consul in this Colony these men were subsequently released by the Supreme Court.

5. There is a very remarkable decrease in kidnapping compared with last and previous years, viz.—sixty-eight cases in 1867, fifty-three cases in 1868, against seven cases reported during 1869. This may be partly attributed to the introduction of Ordinance 3 of 1868, which empowers the Supreme Court to award the punishment of whipping in addition to imprisonment, and also to a subsequent Proclamation in the 'Government Gazette' offering a reward of $20 for evidence leading to conviction of this offence.

6. With the exception of drunkenness, which is almost entirely confined to foreigners, and which I regret to say has increased by 169 cases, *i. e.* 27·2 per cent.—compared with last year—all minor offences show a large decrease.

7. *Prevention of Crime.*—The success of the police is so much enhanced by the deportation of old defenders that every effort is made to arrest men of this class. In this we have received valuable assistance from the Gaming-house licensees, who have, during the past year, caused the apprehension of 140 men who were convicted under Ordinance 9 of 1857; most of whom had been previously branded and deported.

8. Assistance has also been received from the native district watchmen, who have brought up several cases during the year.

9. Night patrolling, both on horseback and on foot, has been efficiently performed and its value has been especially shown on the roads above Victoria, at Pok-foo-lúm, and British Kowloon, where several daring robberies have been averted by the opportune arrival of the Police.

10. The introduction of new Ordinances has doubtless reduced some serious offences; accidental circumstances may also have contributed to the temporary diminution of crime, but I consider that its steady decrease during the last four years may be reasonably accepted as proof that the exertions of the officers of this department have not been wholly futile; and that as regards the prevention of crime, the chief purpose for which a Police is maintained, the force has not been unsuccessful.

11. *Detection.*—The subjoined statement shows an improvement in the working of the police as tested by the percentage of prisoners convicted and discharged. No reliable record has hitherto been kept of the number of cases traced, and the amount of property recovered, by the police; but forms for this purpose are now being prepared.

OFFENCES.

Serious.					Minor.				
Year.	Persons Arrested.	Persons Discharged.	No. of Persons Convicted.		Year.	Persons Arrested.	Persons Discharged.	No. of Persons Convicted.	
			Total.	No. per Cent.				Total.	No. per Cent.
1868	1,422	517	905	63·6	1868	3,836	895	2,941	76·6
1869	889	285	604	67·9	1869	2,652	647	2,005	75·6

Hong Kong.

12. It is impossible to lay down any standard in detection below which the working of a police force can be justly condemned. Success in this respect must depend quite as much on external circumstances,—such as the talent and dexterity displayed by the criminal classes, the natural features of the country, and the character of its natives,—as on the ability and exertions of the police. As a remarkable illustration of this I may refer to the present deplorable state of Ireland, where numerous agrarian outrages, of the most daring character, have hitherto baffled the ablest detective officers, so much so that it was lately stated by Lord Cairns in the House of Lords that in Ireland, during the year 1869, out of 59 cases of murder and other heinous offences, including eighteen assassinations, in only one had the criminal been discovered and committed for trial. Here the dishonesty of the natives, on whom we have to depend for the detection of crime, renders it impossible to maintain an organized detective police. Indeed, if such a force did exist, I am of opinion that it would be of very little use, unless outposts could be maintained, under European supervision, at different points in the San-On District, and in Canton and Macao; which, under existing circumstances would of course be impossible.

13. There is ample evidence to show that the perpetrators of most of the serious offences which have occurred in this Colony were inhabitants of Chinese territory. Many daring crimes have been evidently planned beyond our jurisdiction. And in most cases precautionary arrangements were made by the depredators to secure a safe retreat before information could reach the police.

* Not printed.

14. From Appendix C* it will be seen that larceny by servants has decreased in a very remarkable manner since the opening of licensed gaming houses, the average number of cases reported per quarter during the years 1865, 1866, and 1867 being 82, compared with 25 during 1868, and 15 during 1869.

† Not printed.

15. I take this opportunity of submitting a statement, Appendix D,† of the working of the different members of the force, as tested by the number of persons arrested, convicted, and discharged; which was called for some months ago by his Excellency the Governor, but in consequence of Mr. Deane's illness, remained unfinished when he left the Colony on sick leave. This return shows the number of persons apprehended and the result of these arrests. In the water police, the European constable in charge of a boat invariably gets credit for all arrests, although in most instances he receives the information from Chinese Lo-kongs. For this reason the statement cannot be relied on in the cases of Europeans, and Chinese; but it is useful to show the comparative efficiency of the Sikhs and other Indian members of the force, in the performance of the most important duty of a municipal police.

16. In drawing this comparison it must be borne in mind that as yet the Sikhs have not had the same local experience as other members of the Indian force, and little opportunity has yet occurred for weeding out the worst men, as in the case of the Bombay and Madras constables, who have been selected from the large number of men brought on at different times from India; the worst men of each batch having been discharged on the expiration of their first term of service.

‡ Not printed.

17. From Appendix E‡ will be seen the punishments inflicted on the force during the past year. No similar return was submitted last year, but I believe the conduct and discipline of the force to have considerably improved.

18. The Sikhs, than whom there are no braver or more reliable men in a critical emergency, are becoming better aquainted with their work, and many have already acquired a slight colloquial knowledge of Chinese, and are making good progress in English; being regular attendants of the evening class established by his Excellency the Governor.

19. Before suggesting any improvement in our present police system, or deciding as to the class of men best qualified to perform the work, it is necessary to consider what the nature of the duty really is; a point which does not appear to have received sufficient attention from some who have advanced opinions on the subject. For the efficient performance of municipal police duty in the town of Victoria, we undoubtedly require many more Europeans than we now possess; but I fear little advantage would be derived from increasing the number unless the pay was also enhanced, as that now offered is insufficient to induce many good men to join.

20. For duty at out-stations, patrolling hill roads at night, and guarding gaols and other Government buildings, an armed police is necessary; and for these and similar duties I think it will always be found expedient to retain a large Indian element in the force.

21. I consider natives of the North of India more desirable for work of this kind than Europeans; they are equal in physical courage, much less expensive, and better able to endure the severity of this climate when night work in the hot weather is involved.

22. In the stable we have had many casualties; four of the eleven Australian horses brought from Calcutta in March, 1867, have either died or been destroyed, and one or two

of the survivors have already shown symptoms of the apparently incurable rheumatism which seems peculiar to China, and which is frequently accompanied by a honeycombed exostosis on the posterior maxillary bones.

23. A large mess-room having been given up for the use of the school, the deficient accommodation, both for officers and men in the barracks, which was noticed in last annual report, is now felt still more severely. No stables have yet been built at Stanley, Aberdeen, or Shau'-ki-wan, and those in the barracks are badly situated and incommodious.

C. VANDELEUR CREAGH,
Acting Captain Superintendent.

Police Barracks, 25th March, 1870.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

(No. 41.)

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hong Kong, April 12, 1870.

THE following Return of Revenue and Expenditure for 1869, including Receipts and Disbursements on account of the Colony by the Crown agents in England, is published for general information, with the Comparative Statement for the years 1868 and 1869.

By command,
(Signed) J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the COLONY of HONG KONG during the Year ended 31st December, 1869.

REVENUE.			Amount.		EXPENDITURE.	Amount.	
			$	c.		$	c.
Land Revenue			132,811	68	Establishments :—		
Rents, exclusive of Lands			50,038	47	The Governor	25,553	77
Licences :—	$	c.			Colonial Secretary	27,312	47
Spirit Retailers	31,590	65			Colonial Treasurer	12,360	30
Pawnbrokers	7,700	00			Auditor-General	12,091	66
Auctioneers	4,200	00			Clerk of Councils	1,031	00
Tenements for Emigrants	176	95			Surveyor-General	29,133	08
Emigration Brokers	2,400	00			Master of the Mint	7,433	81
Billiard Tables and Bowling Alleys	1,275	00			Postmaster-General	35,510	53
Opium Monopoly	108,660	00			Registrar-General	14,052	23
Boarding Houses	400	00			Harbour Master	36,799	86
Marriage	75	00			Collector of Stamp Revenue	3,880	55
Chinese Undertakers	70	00			Chief Justice	28,435	18
Money Changers	675	00			Judge of Summary Jurisdiction Court	10,496	95
Marine Store Dealers	2,625	00			Registrar of Companies	192	00
			159,847	60	Ecclesiastical	4,950	00
Taxes :—					Educational	10,684	81
Stamps	95,812	51			Medical	13,157	63
Police, Lighting, Water, and Fire Brigade Rates	178,717	09			Police Magistrates	17,089	80
			274,529	60	Police	125,056	09
Postage			64,854	28	Gaols	16,420	08
Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Courts :—					Fire Brigade	16,491	05
Fines	10,639	70			Total Establishments	448,132	85
Forfeitures	1,433	14			Pensions, Retired Allowances, and Gratuities	16,623	99
Fees	4,645	28			Revenue Services (exclusive of Establishments)	2,998	86
			16,718	12	Administration of Justice " "	1,236	13
Fees of Office :—					Charitable Allowances	871	84
On Cemetery Burials	938	00			Hospitals (exclusive of Establishments)	11,287	90
Licences for Junks, &c.	8,238	00			Police " "	50,045	51
Passes "	7,835	75			Gaols " "	22,622	65
Registry of Boats	3,675	84			Rent	5,180	23
" Cargo Boats and Crews	1,357	41			Transport	2,516	90
" Hawkers	1,801	25			Conveyance of Mails	2,190	82
Cargo Boats' Certificates	195	00			Works and Buildings	165,145	02
Registration of Householders	2,238	50			Roads, Streets, and Bridges	25,941	11
" Servants, &c.	298	00			Miscellaneous Services	62,240	51
Official Signatures	88	00			Special Expenses	5,000	00
Registration of Deeds	1,633	50			Military Contribution	90,819	14
Shipping Seamen	7,113	00					
Examination of Masters and Mates	610	00					
Colonial Registers	50	00					
Merchant Shipping Act	613	00					
Registry of Carriages, Chairs, &c.	1,419	60					
Registration of Companies	108	00					
Medical Fees on Examination of Emigrants	4,707	25					
			42,920	10			
Sale of Government Property			521	75			
Mint			60,102	71			
Reimbursements			87,579	43			
Miscellaneous Receipts			13,965	09			
Interest			8,958	08			
Ordinance No. 10, of 1867			10,806	10			
Total		$	923,653	01	Total	$ 912,853	46

Colonial Treasury, Victoria, Hong Kong, 8th April, 1870.

A. F. ALVES, *Accountant.*

Examined, J. GARDINER AUSTIN, *Acting Auditor-General.*

FRED^K FORTH, *Colonial Treasurer.*

Comparative Statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony of Hong Kong in 1868 and 1869.

Revenue.	1868.	1869.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Land Revenue	150,211 28	132,811 68	—	17,399 60
Rents, exclusive of Lands	49,795 60	50,038 47	242 87	—
Licenses:—				
Spirit Retailers	30,140 00	31,590 65	1,450 65	—
Pawnbrokers	10,500 00	7,700 00	—	2,800 00
Auctioneers	4,200 00	4,200 00	—	—
Tenements for Emigrants	495 10	176 95	—	318 15
Emigration Brokers	2,400 00	2,400 00	—	—
Billiard Tables and Bowling Alleys	1,275 00	1,275 00	—	—
Play Houses	267,166 66	—	—	267,166 66
Opium Monopoly	94,970 00	108,660 00	13,690 00	—
Boarding Houses	360 00	400 00	40 00	—
Marriage	70 00	75 00	5 00	—
Chinese Undertakers	60 00	70 00	10 00	—
Money Changers	640 00	675 00	35 00	—
Marine Store Dealers	2,385 00	2,625 00	240 00	—
Taxes:—				
Stamps	101,766 20	95,812 51	—	5,953 69
Police, Lighting, Water, and Fire Brigade Rates	221,230 09	178,717 09	—	42,513 00
Postage	62,977 80	64,854 28	1,876 48	—
Fines of Courts	18,520 18	10,639 70	—	7,880 48
Forfeitures of Courts	6,522 50	1,433 14	—	5,089 36
Fees of Courts	3,259 16	4,645 28	1,386 12	—
Fees of Office:—				
On Cemetery Burials	873 32	938 00	64 68	—
Licences for Junks, &c.	11,382 00	8,238 00	—	3,144 00
Passes „	9,011 75	7,835 75	—	1,176 00
Registry of Boats	3,626 84	3,675 84	49 00	—
„ Cargo Boats and Crews	1,518 49	1,357 41	—	161 08
„ Hawkers	2,101 25	1,801 25	—	300 00
Cargo Boats' Certificates	239 00	195 00	—	44 00
Registration of Householders	2,577 50	2,238 50	—	339 00
„ Servants, &c.	434 50	298 00	—	136 50
Official Signatures	139 00	88 00	—	51 00
Registration of Deeds	1,363 50	1,633 50	270 00	—
Shipping Seamen	7,032 00	7,113 00	81 00	—
Examination of Masters and Mates	460 00	610 00	150 00	—
Colonial Registers	80 00	50 00	—	30 00
Merchant Shipping Act	593 00	613 00	20 00	—
Registry of Chairs, Carriages, &c.	1,180 90	1,419 60	238 70	—
Registration of Companies	358 00	108 00	—	250 00
Medical Fees on Examination of Emigrants	453 50	4,707 25	4,253 75	—
Sale of Government Property	2,364 80	521 75	—	1,843 05
Mint	19,038 69	60,102 71	41,064 02	—
Reimbursements	10,421 94	87,579 43	77,157 49	—
Miscellaneous Receipts	14,936 96	13,965 09	—	971 87
Interest	5,188 88	8,958 08	3,769 20	—
Ordinance No. 10 of 1867	9,785 80	10,806 10	1,020 30	—
	$ 1,134,106 19	923,653 01	147,114 26	357,567 44
Deduct Increase				$ 147,114 26
Net Decrease				$ 210,453 18

Expenditure.	1868.	1869.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Establishments:—				
The Governor	25,559 55	25,553 77	—	5 78
Colonial Secretary	28,428 85	27,312 47	—	1,116 38
Colonial Treasurer	12,777 66	12,360 30	—	417 36
Auditor-General	15,870 52	12,091 66	—	3,778 86
Clerk of Councils	1,086 21	1,031 00	—	55 21
Surveyor-General	28,429 98	29,133 08	703 10	—
Master of the Mint	38,334 02	7,433 81	—	30,900 21
Postmaster-General	27,033 63	35,510 53	8,476 90	—
Registrar-General	13,544 30	14,052 23	507 93	—
Harbour-Master	33,468 84	36,799 86	3,331 02	—
Collector of Stamp Revenue	6,189 95	3,880 55	—	2,309 40
Chief Justice	28,364 18	28,435 18	71 00	—
Judge of Summary Jurisdiction Court	10,429 86	10,496 95	67 09	—
Registrar of Companies	192 00	192 00	—	—
Ecclesiastical	4,768 58	4,950 00	181 42	—
Educational	9,898 82	10,684 81	785 99	—
Medical	10,857 60	13,157 63	2,300 03	—
Police Magistrates	17,120 03	17,089 80	—	30 23
Police	117,125 84	125,056 09	7,930 25	—
Gaols	15,094 07	16,420 08	1,326 01	—
Fire Brigade	3,899 04	16,491 05	12,592 01	—
Total Establishments	448,473 53	448,132 85	38,272 75	38,613 43
Pensions, Retired Allowances, and Gratuities	16,303 63	16,623 99	320 36	—
Revenue Services	1,696 55	2,998 86	1,302 31	—
Administration of Justice	924 26	1,236 13	311 87	—
Charitable Allowances	350 68	871 84	521 16	—
Hospitals	11,613 51	11,287 90	—	325 61
Police	56,022 38	50,045 51	—	5,976 87
Gaols	25,115 35	22,622 65	—	2,492 70
Mint	3,847 87	—	—	3,847 87
Rent	8,052 27	5,180 23	—	2,872 04
Transport	8,222 55	2,516 90	—	5,705 65
Conveyance of Mails	2,297 51	2,190 82	—	106 69
Works and Buildings	106,614 63	165,145 02	58,530 39	—
Roads, Streets, and Bridges	57,829 40	25,941 11	—	31,888 29
Miscellaneous Services	28,106 89	62,240 51	34,133 62	—
Land and Houses Purchased	1,500 00	—	—	1,500 00
Special Expenses	6,195 68	5,000 00	—	1,195 68
Military Contribution	208,144 80	90,819 14	—	117,325 66
	$ 991,311 49	912,853 46	133,392 46	211,850 49
Deduct Increase				$ 133,392 46
Net Decrease				$ 78,458 03

Colonial Treasury, Victoria, Hong Kong, 8th April, 1870.

A. F. ALVES,
Accountant.

Examined, J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Acting Auditor-General.

FREDK. FORTH,
Colonial Treasurer.

(No. 63.)

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hong Kong, May 12, 1870.

The following Report of the Colonial Surgeon, with Returns annexed for the year 1869, is published for general information.

(By Command)
J GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

(*Extracts.*) Victoria, Hong Kong, April 18, 1870.

My *Eleventh* Annual Report, on the sanitary condition of Hong Kong, has reference to the year 1869. The impression left on my own mind, and on that of other practitioners, is, that last season was remarkable beyond previous years for unusual heat, and for great immunity from serious sickness. The following tables do not confirm either of those views; for it will be seen that the mortality amongst the foreign residents has exceeded that of the previous two years. Too much weight however must not be attached to this, as the sources from which the data for constructing the table of mortality are derived are somewhat unreliable; and the present discrepancy between the general impression and the statistical returns only serves to point out the necessity which exists for having all deaths properly registered,—a subject to which I have on several previous occasions adverted. In regard to the temperature also, I believe that although the thermometer never attained (according to the tables) the same altitude as it did in previous years, it remained for a longer period than usual at a point sufficiently elevated to be oppressive to most Europeans. But taking the case as made out by the tables even, the increased mortality is trifling in comparison to what it was in former years, and the climate of Hong Kong may be said to be now eminently salubrious for the tropics.

The many sanitary improvements undertaken within the last few years have doubtless contributed greatly to this satisfactory result, and perhaps none more so than the planting of trees, which has been carried out with great vigour. I believe that much good will follow the extension of this system, and that wherever a tree can find root, it should be put in; and that so long as all undergrowth is removed, there cannot be too many trees. Fortunately, a branch cut off from a tree and stuck into the ground is all that is required to produce a new plant, and, where not exposed too much to the influence of the strong wind, it flourishes in an astonishing manner. On the margin of the sea, perhaps, this result is less satisfactory, owing to the spray, and it has been suggested that the cocoanut palm might thrive there, and be remunerative as well. The preservation of small birds from wanton destruction will also prove to be a useful sanitary measure, as their increase must tend to diminish the number of mosquitoes and other troublesome and irritating insects.

The use of carbolic acid, which has been freely employed from time to time, in cleansing the drains, has been of great benefit, although periodical flushing can alone effectually keep them free from emitting unpleasant and unhealthy gases. On some parts of the seaboard, as on the foreshore at Wanchai, no amount of carbolic acid which could be employed appeared to produce the slightest beneficial effect, and I believe that nothing short of carrying out the Praya into deep water, and running the drains beyond this, will prove sufficient to remedy this nuisance.

During the month of March, three vessels came into port from Yokohama having typhus fever on board. It was thought advisable to remove the infected men to Stone-cutter's Island, and place the ships in quarantine for a short time. Whether the occurrence of this fever on ship-board is in any way connected with the tidal mud ballast used is a point to which the health officer's attention has been directed, and an answer to which may be expected at the end of the present season.

A case which came before the Coroner in April attracted the notice of the Government to an institution known as the "I-tsz." Land had been originally granted for the purpose of erecting a temporary resting-place for coffined bodies previous to their removal to their native districts, in conformity with Chinese custom. It was found that persons dangerously ill, and likely to die, were sent there to take their chance, wholly unprovided with the common necessaries of life. It is not easy to explain the inhumanity practised, except on the supposition that the cost and trouble generally attendant on purifying houses in which death has occurred, acted on the natural cupidity of the people. As soon as the condition of matters was recognized, it was at once put a stop to, and rooms were erected for the temporary reception of Chinese patients, to be treated by native practitioners. These rooms are regularly inspected by the Registrar-General, Coroner, and myself, and will suffice until

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the Chinese hospital can be built, to which, besides a large grant from the Government, the wealthy Chinese have liberally subscribed. The death rate is still very great however; for out of 211 admissions since the 9th of June to the 31st December, 89 died, and 19 remained in the establishment.

Small-pox was not met with during the past year much more frequently than in 1868, only one admission having taken place at the Government Civil Hospital, although there were 10 cases admitted at the Seaman's Hospital, but most of the latter were from vessels.

No epidemic of any kind visited the Colony during the year.

IV.—THE LOCK HOSPITAL.

Lately the Contagious Diseases Acts have been brought somewhat prominently before public notice, singularly enough by an association of "earnest and pertinacious ladies who "are banded together with the avowed object of procuring the repeal of these Acts." It therefore behoves those who are, like myself, greatly in favour of their extension, and who possess unusual opportunities of judging of their working, to come forward and express their convictions—and I need not therefore hesitate to record, in this Official Report, the result of about twelve years' daily supervision of the system of inspection and control, as carried out in this Colony.

It appears to me that the questions of most importance to be answered are:—

1. Does syphilitic disease left unchecked inflict serious injury not only on the individual infected, but on generations unborn?
2. Is it possible by any legislative means to check the spread of this fearful scourge?
3. How far can legislative interference be applied to the male as well as to the female sex?
4. What has been in this Colony the sanitary result of such interference?

It will not be necessary to dilate on the first point. It is unfortunately too well known how the victims of this loathsome disease are lowered in their moral and physical condition; how from symptom to symptom they may, after years of misery, sink finally into a premature grave. But it is not perhaps so well known that the wide-spread scrofulous and consumptive taint of the human race is traced by some men of science to a syphilitic poison. Nor is it sufficiently recognized how such a poison coursing through the system, renders the infected person immeasurably more liable to and less able to resist the inroad of other diseases. This is a subject particularly important to the residents of tropical climates; for could the united experience of medical practitioners in the tropics be reduced to a statistical form it would prove not a little startling to find how large a proportion of the mortality and invaliding could be traced directly or remotely to syphilitic disease.

That it is possible to a great extent to reduce, if not entirely prevent, the spread of this disease by legislative measures is a fact generally admitted by all unprejudiced persons. A most notable instance of this power was seen some years ago in Malta, where up to 1859 a strict system of supervision and personal inspection was maintained and the disease was in consequence almost unknown. The system was then abandoned, as it was found to be a "traditional abuse of power," which at last was resisted by the peculiar class of persons concerned, and Malta, for a time and until the passing of an Ordinance, became as bad as any other garrison town in respect to contagious disease. The same result cannot be shown in Hong Kong, but I shall be able presently to point out the great improvement that has resulted from legislative interference, not only in reducing the extent, but also the malignity of the disease.

The great outcry against the Contagious Diseases Acts now (for the old plea of the immorality of licensing vice has been partly abandoned) is that they deal unfairly in the case of the two sexes, and as the present opponents of these Acts say, punish the comparatively innocent female and let her more guilty partner in iniquity go free. This is a great mistake on their part, for these Acts are not introduced for the purpose of punishment, but with the sole object of restricting the extent of contagion and curing the disease. Moreover, in this Colony at least, the Acts are as far as practicable applied to the male sex equally. Thus before leave is granted to seamen of the Royal Navy they all undergo medical inspection, and are detained on board if found diseased. By a very slight outlay a similar inspection might be made of all merchant seamen, and I hope still to see that this will be considered to be one of the duties of the Health Officer or Officers of the port. The whole of the police force undergo a similar examination once every month, and certainly the soldiers of the garrison might be equally examined.* Lastly, as if to meet

* Sir H. Storks recommends that the men should be examined at least once in seven days.

the objections of those who consider these Acts as one-sided, it is especially provided in our local Ordinance, that all seamen known to be diseased, residing in any boarding house, must under a heavy penalty be reported to the Harbour Master for the purpose of transference to hospital. There only remain therefore the higher class of transgressors against whom it is more difficult to proceed, and as if to balance this, the numerous Portuguese and European prostitutes who now frequent the Colony appear to be equally exempted from all interference on the part of the Executive. And here a very important question presents itself, viz. whether disease has increased among the class of young men who formerly frequented the native establishments. For my own part I am inclined to the opinion that it has so increased, but I am not prepared with statistics on this subject.

Lastly, I come to consider the question of the sanitary result of legislative interference in this Colony—and I am glad to be able to point to some very substantial benefits.

In 1859 I wrote: "Both among naval and military invalids the syphillitic amount to "nearly 25 per cent. of the whole, and this is very nearly the same proportion in the "Government Civil Hospital. In one ship numbering in all 523 hands, of which 300 had "been on the sick list during the last quarter, 77 of these were for venereal diseases, being "at the rate of 25·66 per cent. of the total sick, or 14·72 per cent. of the total strength, "and that be it observed in one quarter. In the Government Civil Hospital the pro-"portion of venereal cases was 138 out of 591 admissions, being in the proportion of "23·18 per cent." Now if the Returns accompanying this Report be contrasted with that former state of matters, it is seen that during the year 1869, as the result of the working of the Contagious Diseases Ordinance, that disease has greatly decreased. In the Government Civil Hospital, even in spite of the great number of cases sent by the Harbour Master, the percentage of syphilitic cases was reduced to 15·82. In the garrison, the percentage of primary disease to the total strength was only 6·83, according to a Return compiled from data furnished to me by Dr. Heffernan, the Deputy Inspector-General. In the police, it was 16·66 against 31·00 per cent. in 1862 as shown in Table XV., and in a most interesting letter addressed to me by Fleet Surgeon Dr. Maccoun, of the United States ship 'Delaware,' on the eve of his departure from the Colony, he says: "Since my arrival on this station in the spring of 1868, I have been struck with the "benefit derived from the system of registration and inspection of public women, so ably "carried out in this Colony.". . . "During our visits to Hong Kong, but few have been "infected, and the type of the disease is very mild.". . . "Out of a crew of 470 men, only "five cases of chancre have been noticed." But the whole letter deserves to be carefully perused, and I think, coming as it does from a perfectly independent source, it is one of the most valuable testimonies that could be adduced in support of the good results of the system. And if we turn to Table X., we find that the type of the disease must have equally improved; at least the average duration of treatment, which may be considered to be a fair test of the severity of a case, has diminished from 43·8 days in 1868 to 24·8 in 1869. I admit that the working of the Ordinance is by no means perfect, and I am still of opinion that all prostitutes, whether in so-called purely Chinese houses, or others, should be examined. In this opinion I am not supported by some of those who are supposed to be peculiarly conversant with the habits of the natives, and in deference to their opinion those houses are exempted from the action of the Ordinance. But independently of the question whether the Chinese are not equally entitled to share in its beneficial action, if its operation is really for good, I am confident that until all prostitutes are subject to the requirements of the Ordinance, this result will be limited—for I am aware that the inmates of the so-called purely Chinese brothels will visit the houses of Europeans, although they may not admit them into the brothels, under the dread of losing their licence.

The only question that remains to be referred to, and that very cursorily, is whether the Ordinance under discussion has had any effect in withdrawing the fear of syphilitic infection from those upon whom it has had a deterrent effect. Such an idea will not bear investigation. The frequenters of brothels are either under the influence of drink at the time, or have lost all dread of the consequences—and in no case I believe will young men be led into temptation for the first time because they can fall with impunity. As long as men are men vice will continue, and it is clearly the duty of the Legislature to protect, if not the actual transgressor, at all events the innocent, from the fearful consequences of disease.

(Signed) J. I. MURRAY, M.D.,
Colonial Surgeon.

The Hon. J. Gardiner Austin,
&c. &c. &c.

HONG KONG.

(No. 102.)

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hong Kong, September 4, 1869.

The following amended Census Return for 1868-69, is published for general information.

(By Command)
J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 1.—CENSUS of HONG KONG, including the MILITARY and NAVAL DEPARTMENTS, June 1, 1869.

	No. of Houses.	No. of Boats.	POPULATION.				Total.
			Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	
*Europeans and Americans, Resident Population	—	—	1,161	523	323	282	2,289
Europeans, Military	—	—	581	62	61	59	763
†Europeans and Americans, Naval Establishments	—	—	729	—	—	—	729
Europeans and Americans, Crews of Mercantile Shipping in the Harbour	—	—	915	—	—	—	915
Europeans and Americans, Temporary Residents	—	—	130	—	—	—	130
Europeans and Americans, Prisoners	—	—	63	—	—	—	63
Total of Europeans and Americans	—	—	3,579	585	384	341	4,889
Goa, Manilla, Indian, and others of Mixed Blood, Resident Population	—	—	820	91	41	45	997
Goa, Manilla, Indian, and others of Mixed Blood, Crews of Mercantile Shipping in the Harbour	—	—	862	—	—	—	862
Indians, Military	—	—	895	18	6	10	929
Goa, Manilla, Indian, and others of Mixed Blood, Prisoners	—	—	22	—	—	—	22
Total of Indians, &c.	—	—	2,599	109	47	55	2,810
Chinese in employ of Europeans, &c.	—	—	6,054	640	238	303	7,235
Chinese residing in Victoria	—	—	47,616	13,837	5,912	5,594	72,959
Chinese residing in Villages and Kowloon	—	—	7,011	2,027	1,307	819	11,164
Boat Population in Victoria	—	—	6,739	3,359	2,219	1,716	14,033
Boat Population, other than Victoria	—	—	3,658	2,418	1,275	1,145	8,496
Prisoners	—	—	371	22	—	—	393
Total of Chinese	—	—	71,449	22,303	10,951	9,577	114,280
Grand Total	6,815	3,332	77,627	22,997	11,382	9,973	121,979

* Of European and American Fixed Residents, there are:—

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
British	485	130	74	70	759
Portuguese	363	348	241	198	1,150
German	135	14	2	2	153
American	90	17	1	7	115
French	35	11	5	5	56
Danish	12	—	—	—	12
Italian	11	1	—	—	12
Spanish	8	1	—	—	9
Swiss	5	1	—	—	6
Austrian	4	—	—	—	4
Netherlands	4	—	—	—	4
Norwegian	2	—	—	—	2
Swedish	2	—	—	—	2
Russian	1	—	—	—	1
Hungarian	1	—	—	—	1
Grecian	1	—	—	—	1
Turkish	1	—	—	—	1
Heligoland	1	—	—	—	1
	1,161	523	323	282	2,289

ALFRED LISTER,
Acting Registrar-General.

Registrar-General's Office, Victoria, Hong Kong, August 7, 1869.

† Those who do not dwell in the Naval Yard at Hong Kong or Kowloon, or on board Her Majesty's ships, are excluded from this return.

(No. 114.)

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hong Kong, September 25, 1869.

The following Memo., which has been submitted to His Excellency the Governor by the Captain Superintendent of Police, is published for general information.

(By Command)

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,

Colonial Secretary.

MEMO.

Hong Kong, September 20, 1869.

1. In the 'London and China Express' of the 8th July last is published a communication, dated the 13th May, from Mr. A. J. Johnston, Secretary of the Anglo-American Municipal Council at Shanghai, in reply to some remarks made in the House of Lords last March reflecting on the general character of the population at Shanghai.

2. Mr. Johnston endeavours to show that statistics prove the population of Shanghai to be comparatively better conducted than that of Hong Kong. He fortifies himself by reference to my Official Report of last April, and in doing so, makes such erroneous and extraordinary statements, that to pass them by in silence, when published in a paper having extensive circulation, might create an injurious impression in the mind of the public.

3. The following are Mr. Johnston's statements in his own language:—

"6. Perhaps, however, the most satisfactory argument is to be derived from official statistics, and I will therefore with your permission compare the police statistics of Shanghai with those of Hong Kong. I take Hong Kong alone, partly because its official returns are readily accessible, partly because it is situated in circumstances somewhat similar to those prevailing at Shanghai, but especially because, from the sweeping nature of the Duke of Somerset's remarks, one well-authenticated fact in opposition to them is as good as a hundred.

"7. From the Official Report of 1868, published by the Captain Superintendent of Police at Hong Kong in the 'Hong Kong Government Gazette' of the 17th April, 1869, it appears that the total strength of the police force in that Colony was 633, viz. 113 Europeans, 328 coloured, and 192 Chinese. In Shanghai, for the same period, the police force numbered 105, viz. 39 Europeans and 66 Chinese. In both places the Chinese element in the police force is useful only against crime committed by Chinese, and therefore, so far as the prevention of crime by Europeans is concerned, Hong Kong maintains 441 police against 39 in Shanghai. By the census taken in Hong Kong on the 31st December, 1867, published in the 'Hong Kong Government Gazette' of 14th March, 1868, it appears that on that day the number of foreigners of all nationalities resident in the Colony was 3,551. Hence assuming, which may fairly be done, that the number of foreigners leaving Hong Kong in 1868 about balanced the number arriving, it will appear that the police were in the proportion of about one to seven foreign residents.

"8. In Shanghai the number of foreigners at present is, exclusive of police, 4,699. Hence the foreign police force is to the foreign residents in the proportion of one to one hundred and twenty.

"9. As to crimes:—In Hong Kong during 1868 there were 1,033 convictions of foreigners under the heads of 'Murder,' 'Manslaughter,' 'Robbery with Violence,' 'Burglary,' 'Assault,' 'Larceny,' 'Kidnapping,' 'Unlawful Possession,' and 'Piracy.' This is a percentage on the whole number of foreign residents of 29 convictions for serious offences. In Shanghai for the period of 12 months, from April, 1868, to March, 1869, the number of foreigners apprehended and convicted was 565, of which 387 were simple drunkenness, 17 were 'Desertion,' 2 were 'Forgery' (of which one was an ex-employé of the Hong Kong Government), and 24 were 'Furious Riding.' Thus 135 may fairly represent the number of more or less serious crimes committed by foreigners during the twelve months indicated. Of these the worst were three cases of 'Cutting and Wounding,' and 61 cases of 'Assault.' But 135 bears to 4,699 the proportion of 2·9 to 100, or exactly one-tenth of the Hong Kong percentage of convictions to the number of residents.

"10. It is obvious from the above figures that a much smaller police force is required to keep order in Shanghai than is required for a like purpose in Hong Kong, although

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foreigners here are more numerous by 1,187 than in Hong Kong. It will further appear that, in spite of this, order is much more effectually maintained here than it is there, although Hong Kong is a Colony under a well-organized Government, regulated by English law, while in Shanghai we have to deal with the Courts of no less than 12 foreign Governments.

"11. The deduction from my argument is, I trust, obvious—that in comparison with Hong Kong alone Shanghai cannot justly be denominated a sink of iniquity exceeding in its immorality all other ports of Europe, America, and Asia."

4. In the first place, Mr. Johnston assumes in the above 7th paragraph, that the resident Hong Kong foreign population was only 3,551 in 1868, and makes that number his standard of comparison for obtaining the ratio of crime to population in Hong Kong and Shanghai, respectively. For such a purpose, all the foreign population under police supervision should in fairness be included in Hong Kong as well as Shanghai. The census returns from which that total was taken do not profess to include soldiers and seamen. Now the foreign population, including seamen and soldiers, as well as residents and others, from Goa, Manilla, and India, has for years been more than double the number stated by Mr. Johnston, and was at the last census shown to be 7,699, a number which at once makes an error of more than 50 per cent. in all Mr. Johnston's comparative statements.

5. Again, it may be true that there are 113 Europeans and 328 Indians in the police of Hong Kong and only 39 European police at Shanghai, if the Consular staff and that of the Supreme Court be omitted. It is not, however, true, as assumed by Mr. Johnston, that the Chinese portion of the force is useful only against natives, which assertion is evidently intended to lead the reader to infer that the foreign police are useful only against foreigners. There is no such distinction. The European and native force act indiscriminately, whether in the city or whether in the outlying villages and harbour, which latter duties alone engage 200 of the force.

6. The proportion, therefore, of Hong Kong police to the total population—121,000—which it supervises is 1 to 191, and the proportion of European police to foreign residents is nearly 1 to 70.

7. Misstatements of the materiel and working of the police force are, however, of little consequence compared with the unnoticed fact that in Shanghai there is only a small level and compact space, and a native population thereon to be watched whose comparatively peaceful and docile character enables them to be governed with peculiar facility, especially as the Chinese authorities lend material assistance on the spot. In Hong Kong there is no such help. The resident population is far larger than that under supervision of the Anglo-American Council at Shanghai, whilst it is, moreover, continually recruited with professional criminals from the most restless and turbulent provinces of the Chinese Empire, so that Hong Kong may be said to be in a constant state of siege *from without*.

8. In Hong Kong, moreover, the hills and valleys have to be watched and patrolled. Numerous out-stations are maintained, and the police employed on many duties which never occur at all at Shanghai, and in the absence of which it would be essentially unnecessary to maintain so large a force as is required by the special peculiarities of Hong Kong, whether geographical or moral.

9. Nevertheless, no ignorance of special circumstances can be held to justify a wanton distortion of statistical returns, or the incorrect statement that in 1868 there were at Hong Kong 1,033 convictions of foreigners under the head of "Murder, Manslaughter, "Robbery with Violence, Assault, Larceny, Kidnapping, Unlawful Possession, and "Piracy," amounting to 29 per cent. on the number of foreigners.

10. The subjoined analysis of the 1,033 convictions of foreigners in 1868 shows that the total percentage was not 29 as stated by Mr. Johnston, but 13·2. It also shows that the number of convictions *under the heads given by Mr. Johnston was not* 1,033, *but* 334, of which 225 were cases of common assault or disturbance on board ship.

11. Under Piracy, Kidnapping, and Murder, which Mr. Johnston puts forward so prominently as three of the classes of "serious" crime committed by foreigners in Hong Kong, not even one case occurred!

12. Finally, if both for Hong Kong and Shanghai the cases of assault, which are generally trivial, and unfit to be classed with felonies, and if also the minor offences, such as drunkenness, refusal of duty, &c., be deducted from the totals in each place, the serious crimes committed by foreigners will be found to have been in the ratio of 1·5 per cent. to the population in Shanghai in 1868, and of only 1 per cent. to the population of Hong Kong.

13. Nevertheless, Mr. Johnston did not scruple to assert that the proportion of "serious crime" to foreigners in Hong Kong was 29 per cent., an inexcusable misrepresentation, which I respectfully trust this Government will cause to be corrected, as such misstatement

by their Secretary in no way improves the position of the Anglo-American Council at Shanghai, a body whose excellent administration is generally acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

W. M. DEANE,
Captain Superintendent of Police.

The Hon. J. Gardiner Austin,
Colonial Secretary, Hong Kong.

Appendix A.

EXTRACT from No. 1.—CENSUS of HONG KONG, including the MILITARY and NAVAL DEPARTMENTS, 1st June, 1869.

	No. of Houses.	No. of Boats.	POPULATION.				Total.
			Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	
Europeans and Americans, Resident Population	—	—	1,161	523	323	282	2,289
Europeans, Military	—	—	581	62	61	59	763
Europeans and Americans, Naval Establishments	—	—	729	—	—	—	729
Europeans and Americans, Crews of Mercantile Shipping in the Harbour	—	—	915	—	—	—	915
Europeans and Americans, Temporary Residents	—	—	130	—	—	—	130
Europeans and Americans, Prisoners	—	—	63	—	—	—	63
Total of Europeans and Americans	—	—	3,579	585	384	341	4,889
Goa, Manilla, Indian, and others of Mixed Blood, Resident Population	—	—	820	91	41	45	997
Goa, Manilla, Indian, and others of Mixed Blood, Crews of Mercantile Shipping in the Harbour	—	—	862	—	—	—	862
Indians, Military	—	—	895	18	6	10	929
Goa, Manilla, Indian, and others of Mixed Blood, Prisoners	—	—	22	—	—	—	22
Total of Indians, &c.	—	—	2,599	109	47	55	2,810
Grand Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,199

ALFRED LISTER,
Acting Registrar General.

Appendix B.

RETURN of CONVICTIONS of Foreigners for Serious and Minor Crimes and Offences, during 1868, in Hong Kong.

Robbery with Violence.	Burglary.	Assault with Intent to rob.	Larceny.	Manslaughter.	Disturbance on board ship and Assaults.	Gambling.	Kidnapping.	Unlawful Possession.	Piracy.	Drunkenness.	Nuisances.	Neglect and Refusal of Duty.	Extortion.	Rogues and Vagabonds.	Damaging Property.	Breach of Gaol Ordinance.	Breach of Public Vehicles Ordinance.	Obtaining Goods under false Pretences.	Total.
1	1	3	64	2	255	2	0	6	0	444	15	154	3	53	6	4	14	6	1,033

Estimate of "Foreign" Population, including Soldiers and Seamen 7,199

Ratio of Convictions for Serious Crimes .. .. 1·0 per cent. } 4·2 per cent.
" Assaults and Disturbances on board ship .. 3·2 "
" Minor Offences .. .. 9·0 "
13·2 "

W. M. DEANE,
Captain Superintendent of Police.

LABUAN.

No. 3.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor POPE HENNESSY to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.
(No. 1.)

MY LORD, Government House, Labuan, January 2, 1871.

1. I HOPE to be able to send the Blue Book for 1869 by the next mail. Meantime I proceed to make a brief Report on the state of the Colony in that year and its present prospects.

Legislation.

2. Ordinance, No. 1, "To appropriate the sum required for the Public Service for year "1869." As Labuan no longer appears in the estimate laid before the House of Commons, or in the Imperial Appropriation Act, it became necessary, for the first time, to pass a local Appropriation Ordinance.

3. Ordinance, No. 2, "To provide for the levy of fees and payments for Licences.' This is an adaptation of a law which has been found to work well in the Straits Settlements. In my Despatch, No. 53, of the 23rd November, 1870, I have pointed out that this Ordinance enabled me to obtain from the licences on the sale of arms and ammunition three times the amount estimated in the year 1869.

4. Ordinance, No. 3, "To make compulsory the practice of Vaccination, and to "encourage voluntary Vaccination in Labuan." Though I appointed a Public Vaccination in 1868, I did not legislate on the subject until I had ascertained how the new law worked in Singapore. In its main provisions this Ordinance is similar to the one in force in the Straits.

5. In my Despatch, No. 30, of the 10th of August, 1870, I reported that small-pox had been brought to the Colony from Hong Kong in a steamer carrying Chinese coolies. Fortunately the labours of the Public Vaccinator and the Ordinance on the subject, had so prepared Labuan that not more than three persons were attacked. The only death from small-pox was that of a passenger who was landed in the last stage of the disease.

6. Ordinance, No. 4, "For carrying into effect Capital Punishment within prisons." This is similar to the Imperial Act on the same subject.

Financial.

7. Having recently reported very fully on the financial state of the Colony (Despatches, Nos. 48 and 53 of 1870), it is only necessary to say that the revenue continues steadily to increase, and that the chief sources of it are now secured until the 1st of January, 1874.

8. The expenditure is well within the revenue, although I am now providing not only for the ordinary cost of the Colony, but for the whole expense of an armed police force as a substitute for the troops.

Military Expenditure.

9. For twenty-three years the Imperial Exchequer has defrayed the cost of maintaining the troops in Labuan. In a recent letter from Sir Henry Storks he estimates the expense of the two companies of Ceylon Rifles now here at 12,000*l.* a year.

10. I am happy to say that this year (1871) will see a well-trained local force substituted for the troops. One company is now ready to embark, and the other will leave Labuan before next August.

11. The local force will cost the Government of Labuan less than 3,000*l.* a year; and the officer in command of the troops informs me that he considers it more efficient than the expensive detachment that is now about to be reduced.

Sanitary.

12. The general health of the population was remarkably good in 1869, and it has continued so up to the present date.

13. The troops, however, suffered severely from a fatal disease called "beri-beri, or the

" bad sickness of Ceylon." This disease was confined to the two companies of the Ceylon Rifles. LABUAN.

14. In my Report on the Blue Book for 1870 I will refer to the results of a very satisfactory inquiry into the sanitary state of Labuan, that was instituted by Surgeon Jessop, under orders from Major-General Renny, the officer in command of Her Majesty's forces in Ceylon.

The Coal Mines.

15. I shall take the same opportunity of reporting on the steady progress that is being made at the colliery.

General Trade.

16. The local merchants continue to extend their trade every year. A second barque trades regularly now to Singapore, and the steamers of the Oriental Coal Company also get freights in addition to the coal from this place to Hong Kong and to the Straits.

Population.

17. The inhabitants are, as usual, contented and peaceable. A few small shopkeepers have arrived from Singapore to occupy the last group of brick houses recently built in the town of Victoria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. POPE HENNESSY,
Governor.

The Right Honourable The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

MAURITIUS.

MAURITIUS.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from The OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 60.)

MY LORD, Mauritius, August 26, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Annual Blue Book for the year 1869.

2. An examination of the different returns will leave a far more satisfactory impression than was conveyed by those of 1867 and 1868, the former of which years is memorable on account of one of the most severe and fatal epidemics that have been recorded in modern times; whilst that following witnessed one of the most violent and devastating hurricanes that has ever visited this Island.

3. An unusually large crop, coupled with fair prices and greater economy observed in its production, changed in a very great measure the aspect of affairs during the past year, whilst the improved state of the health of the Colony contributed to restore the confidence which had been seriously shaken by a succession of disasters.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

4. The only additional taxation that was imposed in 1869 was by an Ordinance revising and consolidating the stamp laws, which came into force in the beginning of the year and produced an increase of revenue of 3,000*l.* This result was attained partly by a slight increase in the rates of some stamps, and partly by provisions introduced in the new law which have had the effect of preventing its being evaded, as was formerly done to a considerable extent, a large number of commercial bills having been stamped only when it became necessary to protest them for non-payment.

Revenue and Expenditure.

5. The returns for the past year show a much more satisfactory result than those for 1868. Not only has there been an increase of 17,000*l.* over the revenue of the previous year, but there has been also an excess of 20,000*l.* of revenue over expenditure instead of a balance the other way, as has unfortunately been the case during the past four years.

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Report of Gen. Manager for 1869.

6. A marked improvement has taken place in the results of the working of the railway, as will be seen on reference to the annual Report of the General Manager forwarded herewith. The receipts exceeded those of last year by 17,000*l.*, whilst the increased traffic only entailed an additional expenditure of 2,000*l.*, which figure corresponds with the increase in the train mileage. The total profit on the year was 34,000*l.*, or 11,000*l.* more than last year, and the working expenses (including a sum of 2,000*l.* that formerly would have been charged to construction account) have been reduced to 64·37 per cent. These expenses were in 1867, 74·50 per cent., and in 1868, 70·21 per cent.

7. The improvement in the result of the working of the railway in 1869 is mainly to be attributed to the crop having been so much larger than the previous one. The tonnage of sugar conveyed was 28,700 tons in excess of 1868, whilst the total increase of goods traffic was 41,280 tons. The increase of passenger traffic produced about 3,000*l.*

Local Revenues.

8. Although a smaller cash balance is shown by the municipal accounts than in 1868, the position of the Corporation has somewhat improved. 16,000*l.* of debts have been paid off, whilst new debentures bearing interest at 7 instead of 9 per cent. have been issued to the extent only of 10,700*l.* The revenue of the Corporation was about the same as in 1868, whilst the expenditure fell 3,651*l.* below that of the previous year. In this computation are not included the sums of 2,990*l.* received and 4,384*l.* paid in 1868 by the municipality on account of poor relief, of which duties the Corporation were relieved in the course of that year.

9. The revenue of the General Board of Health showed an excess over the expenditure of 1,227*l.* Of the debt to Government only 2,332*l.* has yet been paid off. In the new Sanitary Ordinance which is now before Council it is proposed to make some new provision for the revenue of the Board, though direct taxation will probably continue, as heretofore, to be the source from which it is derived.

10. The Poor Law Commission accounts show that the revenue which is derived from a small additional percentage on Customs Duties and on Colonial Spirits consumed in the Colony fell short of the current expenditure by about 2,000*l.* The debts of the Commission incurred in order to meet the expenses of purchase of land and buildings are 11,000*l.* raised on debentures, and 2,000*l.* borrowed from the Savings Bank, which latter amount ought to be repaid this year.

Military Expenditure.

11. The Colony having had to pay under the arrangements sanctioned by your Lordship's predecessor last year, a fixed rate per head for the troops stationed in the Island, instead of the lump sum of 45,000*l.* which it formerly contributed, the expenditure, owing to the reduced strength of the garrison, fell short of that of the preceding year by 18,000*l.* The total disbursements of the Imperial Government were 57,000*l.* against 95,500*l.* in 1868, and of this amount about one-half was reimbursed by the Colony.

Public Works.

12. The expenditure under this head has been limited almost exclusively to the necessary repairs to buildings and roads; the prosecution of the new works which had been commenced some years ago having been postponed till the finances of the Colony will admit of their being resumed. There is a decrease of 11,000*l.* on the expenditure of the previous year, the difference being accounted for by the hurricane damages which had to be made good in 1868.

Civil Establishments.

13. Although the whole of the reductions recommended by the Civil Service Commission have not yet been effected, a further saving of 5,730*l.* in the cost of establishments has been arrived at during 1869.

Population.

14. The population returns for 1869 show a decrease of 1,478 on the figures of the preceding year, which is accounted for by an excess of 1,316 deaths over births, and of 162 departures from the Colony over arrivals. The diminution took place amongst the male Indian population, the number of females of that class having slightly increased.

15. Sir Henry Barkly has on previous occasions alluded to the difficulty in preparing accurate statistical information respecting the population of the Colony. This difficulty

will, it is hoped, soon be removed. The Census, which is to take place next year, will furnish a more certain basis from which to start, and by that time the Ordinance reconstituting the Civil Status Office will have been passed and carried into effect, when an improved system of Registration will be introduced, and at the same time the appointment of a Registrar-General having control over the different offices in the Colony will ensure greater accuracy as well as uniformity in the returns.

Report of Acting Officer of Civil Status.

16. The annual Report drawn up by the acting officer of the Civil Status, which is annexed, shows, I am happy to state, a marked improvement in the health of the Colony over the preceding year.

17. The total mortality of the Island was 11,295, being 7,345 less than in 1868, the death rate being 3·50 per cent. as compared to 5·60 in the preceding year. This figure is not much higher than the ordinary rate, the mean of which for the years 1859, 1860. 1861, 1863, 1864, 1865, and 1866, when no epidemic disease prevailed, was 3·45 per cent.

18. The greatest improvement was shown in the town of Port Louis, where the death-rate fell from 10 per cent. in 1868 to 4·46; that in the rural districts being 4·43 and 3·26 respectively for the two years.

19. The ratio of the mortality for the whole Island for each quarter of the year as compared with the total for the year was as follows:—

Quarter ended 31st March	29·58	per cent.
„ 30th June	35·06	„
„ 30th September	19·26	„
„ 31st December	16·10	„

The deaths, of which fever was the registered cause, formed 56 per cent. of the total mortality of the year.

20. Dr. Edwards, it may be remembered, expressed the opinion last year that it might reasonably be hoped that the disease which had been for some time prevailing in an epidemic form was gradually dying out. In support of this opinion he now points to the results shown by the tables submitted with his Report. Though there is still a good deal of fever prevalent, it is almost entirely confined to those persons who have suffered from repeated attacks thereof, and whose systems are still impregnated with the malarious poison. It would be incorrect to speak of the fever as being any longer epidemic.

Diagram not printed.

21. The annexed diagram shows the monthly rate of mortality for the whole Island for the years 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, and 1869, and the first seven months of 1870; and the great improvement in the health of the Colony can be seen at a glance on referring to the same. It is curious to note how closely the figures given for the several years approach one another during the last months of the year, especially in the month of October, when there was a very slight difference between the mortality of the years 1867, 1868, and 1869, whilst in March, April, and May, when the death-rate was highest, a considerable difference will be found between the rates of the several years.

22. The mortality amongst immigrants engaged on sugar estates was, as in preceding years, below the general average of the Colony, being 3·02 per cent. A large proportion of these deaths is stated by the Protector to have occurred amongst children. The rate for 1868 was 4·51 per cent.

23. Immigration from India was still lower in 1869 than in the preceding years, the total number introduced being 1,682, whilst the departures were 2,320.

24. The Protector calls attention in his Report to the beneficial results of the new labour law, as instanced by the decrease of vagrancy and the diminution of crime amongst the Indian population. Wages have still continued at a moderate rate in spite of the annual decrease of population from the excess of deaths and departures over births and arrivals, and this is no doubt to be attributed to the great decrease of vagrancy.

25. The amount standing to the credit of Indian depositors in the Government Savings Bank at the end of 1869 was 6,514*l.* more than in the preceding year.

Report of Acting Manager of Savings Bank.

26. The Report of the Acting Manager of the Savings Bank may, I think, be considered satisfactory, as showing an improvement in the circumstances of the classes who avail themselves of that institution.

27. The deposits during the last four years and the amount of capital withdrawn during the same period are as follows:—

	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.
Deposits	72,434	58,251	61,354	60,085
Capital withdrawn	73,528	74,481	66,323	59,963

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It will be observed that during the preceding three years, and especially in 1867, when the fever was at its worst, a large amount was withdrawn in excess of that deposited, to supply the wants entailed by sickness and other causes. In 1869, however, though there was a falling off in the amount deposited, there was a still greater falling off in the amount withdrawn, and a small excess in the deposits was the result. The returns of the Bank for the first two months of the present year show that this improved state of affairs is still progressing.

Education.

28. The improvement in the health of the town of Port Louis has induced the return of many pupils to the Royal College. The number of scholars has again attained its usual rate. The new scheme of reorganization introduced by the rector has now been on trial for about eighteen months, and the experiment has been so far satisfactory, though it can hardly be expected that the full results of the reforms and reorganization can be seen in perfect operation for three or four years to come. The address of the Rector at the distribution of prizes, of which copy will be found annexed, gives an interesting description of the reforms that have been hitherto effected.

Address of the Rector at the Distribution of Prizes

29. The number of scholars on the rolls of the Government schools on November 30, 1869, was 4,509, considerably higher than before the epidemic broke out. In the denominational schools there has also been a small increase of pupils, although the number of schools of this class is still less than it was last year.

Administration of Justice.

Returns.

30. I enclose the usual returns from the Judges of the Civil and Criminal cases and other business dealt with by the Supreme Court, and also the Report of the Procureur-General on Crime.

Procureur-General's Report on Crime.

31. The number both of cases and of persons tried before the assizes has been considerably less than in any of the four previous years. This decrease is attributed by the Procureur-General rather to the operation of a new law extending the jurisdiction of the district magistrates in criminal matters, and consequently transferring to them a number of cases hitherto dealt with by the Court of Assize, than to any actual decrease of crime.

32. The number of committals on the criminal side by district magistrates for the town of Port Louis has however fallen also considerably below what it has been for the last five years, and the prison returns of Port Louis likewise show a decrease in the number of committals by the different courts, with the exception only of that of the Police Magistrate, the increase under which head arises, according to the Procureur-General, from contraventions of the new labour law.

33. The returns of the district prisons are not complete enough to ascertain whether the committals by the magistrates in the rural district courts are in excess or not of the previous year. Those of Port Louis taken alone would rather favour the view which is advanced by the Protector with respect to the Indian population, that there has really been a decrease in the amount of crime.

34. The number of murders remained at the same low figure as last year, and sentence of death was passed upon only one person, but was commuted to twenty years' imprisonment.

35. There was only one case of gang robbery. Several cases of bigamy, a crime which which has not been committed for a considerable period, have also to be mentioned.

Gaols and Prisoners.

36. The returns of gaols and prisoners are, I fear, not very reliable this year. I will ve directions to ensure greater care and accuracy in their preparation in future.

Procureur-General's Report on Prisons.

37. The Report of the Chairman of the Prison Committee of Port Louis on the central gaol, and that of the chief medical officer on the health of the prisons generally throughout the Island, will, however, be found to furnish correct information under this head.

38. The total number of prisoners committed to all prisons during the year appears to have been considerably in excess of the preceding year. The total number of cases treated in hospitals was 3,650 in 1869 against 4,595 in 1868. The mortality on the other hand has been 143 against 125 in 1868. Thus there has been a less proportion of sickness to the strength of the prisons, and a larger proportion of mortality.

39. The ratio of sick per 1,000 of total number of prisoners confined in 1869 is stated by chief medical officer as 160·11 against 222·9 in 1868. The death rate at 6·28 per 1,000 against 6·06 in 1868. The death rate in Port Louis prison was 7·32 per 1,000, and in the rural prisons 5·97 per 1,000.

40. The death rate in Port Louis Gaol will compare favourably with the preceding year, having been 4 per cent. on the average strength, whilst in the preceding year it was 4·24 per cent. The admissions to hospital in this gaol were 899 in 1869, and 1,195 in 1868, indicating a decided improvement in the sanitary condition of the prison.

41. The Chief Medical Officer's Report shows the health of the prisoners generally throughout the Island to have been satisfactory, as well as the condition of the prisons, which have been kept in a proper state of ventilation and cleanliness. Overcrowding has been avoided by transferring prisoners from one gaol to another whenever such a measure became necessary.

42. The average nightly lock-up in Port Louis will be seen to have been 676 against 491 in 1868. These figures include, however, all those belonging to the prison, both in the hospital and in the dormitory provided last year in the upper story of the hospital ward. The highest number actually locked up at any time during the year within the walls of the gaol was 575, and the lowest 356.

Juvenile Reformatory.

43. The second Annual Report of the Inspector-General of Police on this institution is forwarded.

44. Unfortunately there has been a great deal of sickness during the past year, especially in the hot season, and the death rate has been consequently rather high. Malignant ulcers, the sequelæ of fever, have been the most prevalent form of disease. Many of the sick, as observed by Colonel O'Brien, were received into the reformatory in such a debilitated state that they had to be admitted at once into hospital. The health of the institution is, however, I am happy to say, now very much improved.

45. Considerable additions have been made to the buildings since the date of the last Report, and as this has been done principally by the labour of the boys themselves, the expense beyond that of materials has been inconsiderable.

46. It will be seen by the returns annexed to Colonel O'Brien's Report, that besides teaching some of the boys various trades a large number is employed on the property in agriculture and gardening. 101 acres of ground are under cultivation, and the produce of this goes towards meeting the expenses of the establishment.

Legislation.

47. Of the twenty-three Ordinances passed during the year the most important were: 1st, a law depriving judgment creditors of the power hitherto possessed by them of imprisoning their debtors, which punishment is reserved only in certain cases of fraud; and 2nd, one regulating the building and improvement of premises in the town of Port Louis, which empowers the municipality to enforce measures for the sanitary improvement of private premises, and for limiting the number of inmates of dwellings.

48. The legislation of the year also embraced measures for enabling persons to obtain in this Colony diplomas in pharmacy and for regulating the sale of poisons; for preventing the illegal practice of medicine and surgery; for the prevention of cruelty to animals; for extending the jurisdiction of district courts in criminal matters, and for amending the game laws. The Procureur-General has so fully explained the object of these Ordinances in his Report, that it is not necessary to do more than mention them here.

49. The remainder of the Ordinances were of minor importance and do not require special notice.

Procureur-General's Report on Legislation.

Imports and Exports.

50. The value of imports during 1869 fell to 1,619,906*l.* against 2,000,097*l.* in the preceding year, whilst that of exports on the other hand rose from 2,313,134*l.* to 2,601,657*l.* (the value of specie imported and exported being deducted in each case). The excess of exports over imports was 1,000,000*l.* according to the returns of the Customs. So great a difference in favour of exports has not been recorded during the last twenty years, and has probably never occurred before in the history of the Colony. In 1855 and again in 1865 the exports exceeded the imports by nearly 500,000*l.* This is the highest figure that has been attained previous to 1869. The shortness of the crop in 1868 no doubt contributed principally to reduce the quantity and value of imports owing to the financial crisis that was occasioned thereby, whilst on the other hand the exports were swollen beyond their usual figure by the unusually good crop of 1869.

51. The crop of 1869 fully realized the expectations that were entertained respecting it. It will be seen by the Blue Book that it amounted to 107,000 tons as compared with 99,000

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in the preceding year, but these figures do not give a correct idea of the extent of the crops of the respective years, as they represent only the quantity of sugar shipped in each year. The crop is generally commenced in July, and the more correct way of estimating it is from 1st August to 31st July of the following year. Viewed in this way the crop of 1868–69 was only 78,000 tons, whilst that of 1869–70 was 135,000 tons, and its value may be calculated as 1,350,000*l.* higher than that of the previous year. The crop of 1869–70 may rank as third highest in extent. In 1862–63 it was 158,000 tons, and in 1860–61 it was 136,000 tons. The exports of the past crop to Australia and India alone equalled the whole of the preceding year.

52. The confidence that was inspired generally by the unusually good yield of the crop and the fair prices that it realized, has however been since somewhat damped by the long and severe drought that has, I regret to say, prevailed during the early part of this year, and it is not anticipated that the crop just commenced will exceed 100,000 tons, though as the cost of production has been kept down it will still, it is hoped, give a fair return if good prices are only obtained. Labour continues to be procurable in the Colony at reasonable rates, in spite of the fact that the number of immigrants who have returned to India during the last four years has exceeded the number introduced during that period.

53. The preservation of the water supply, which has unquestionably been diminished to a great extent by the extensive clearing that has been going on for some years, is no doubt one of the most important questions for the future of the Colony, both as affecting the crops and the health of the inhabitants. A draft Ordinance having this object in view, and containing stringent provisions for the protection of existing forests and for replanting certain portions of the land that has been already cleared, has been recently laid before the Council. Many of the provisions of this draft, which is still under consideration, have however been severely critized, and have met with much opposition from the public.

Civil Commissioner of Seychelles.

54. I enclose also a Report received from the Civil Commissioner of Seychelles, covering his returns for the Blue Book. Mr. Franklyn having at the time this Report was written only recently taken over charge of the Dependency, was not in a position to enter much into details.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. SELBY SMYTH,
Brigadier-General.

Enclosures in No. 4.

Enclosures in No. 4.

(No. 148.)

MAURITIUS RAILWAYS.

SIR, General Manager's Office, Port Louis, March 4, 1870.

Financial Report for 1869.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, the following returns, showing the receipts and expenditure of the Railway Department for the year 1869.

Sheet No. 1 is a summary, showing the statistics of the traffic on a form similar to that forwarded by railway companies in the United Kingdom to the Board of Trade, and presented annually to Parliament.

Sheet No. 2 is a comparative statement of traffic for the years 1868 and 1869 respectively.

Sheet No. 3 shows the receipts and expenditure for the years 1868 and 1869, according to the classification prescribed in Act 31 and 32 Victoria, cap. 119, for railways in the United Kingdom.

2. With reference to the comparative statement of traffic shown on sheet No. 2, I have the honour to submit the following remarks:*—

NORTH LINE.

Passenger Traffic.

3. I regret to say that the passenger traffic on the North Line continues to show a decrease in each class of passengers as compared with 1868 and previous years, the numbers being (omitting season ticket-holders) 391,757 passengers in 1868, and 349,010 in 1869, the decrease being equal to 10·91 per cent.

4. I attribute this falling off of traffic to the mortality caused by the late epidemic, and

* These Statistics, being in detail, are not printed.

to the fact that many of the estates in the neighbourhood of the railway on the North Line have for the present gone out of cultivation.

5. An experiment was tried, from May to July inclusive, as to the effect which a reduction in the fares charged to Indian passengers would have on the receipts, and Indians were then carried in an open waggon from Port Louis to Grand River, S.E., a distance of 31 miles, for 1*s.* 6*d.*

6. Contrary to expectation the experiment proved to be altogether a failure, as reported in my letter (No. 318), dated 3rd June last. The returns show that the number of third and fourth class passengers who travelled during the period alluded to was as follows:—

	Passengers.	Receipts.
3rd Class	9,831	£1,000 7 3
4th Class	1,259	95 8 6
Total	11,090	£1,095 15 9
Percentage of Total:		
3rd Class	88·65	91·29
4th Class	11·35	8·71
	100	100

7. The passenger receipts have diminished nearly in proportion to the number of passengers, the receipts from passengers only being 17,720*l.* in 1869 as compared with 19,747*l.* in 1868, a decrease of 10·26 per cent.

8. The aggregate receipts from parcels, carriages, horses, dogs, mails, and miscellaneous items were 1,626*l.* in 1869, as compared with 1,431*l.* in 1868; and the total passenger receipts, including the above, in 1869 amount to 19,346*l.* as compared with 21,178*l.* in 1868, the decrease being equal to 8·65 per cent.

Goods Traffic.

9. Fortunately the large sugar crop has considerably increased the goods traffic; the tonnage of sugar conveyed in 1869 was fully 50 per cent. greater than that carried in 1868, and the total goods tonnage conveyed in 1869 was 61,994 tons as compared with 45,632 tons in 1868, an increase of 35·85 per cent.

10. Similarly the goods receipts have increased from 14,072*l.* in 1868 to 18,975*l.* in 1869; or an increase of 34·84 per cent.

11. It will thus be seen that the goods traffic in 1869 has more than counterbalanced the loss on the passenger traffic, and the total revenue on the North Line has risen from 35,250*l.* in 1868 to 38,321*l.* in 1869, an increase of 8·71 per cent.

12. The total receipts per railway mile per annum have risen from 1,135*l.* in 1868 to 1,236*l.* in 1869; and the receipts per train mile run from *s.*7·15 in 1868 to *s.*7·82 in 1869.

Midland Line.

Passenger Traffic.

13. It is satisfactory to remark that the passenger traffic in 1869 shows a considerable increase in each class of passengers over the number who travelled in 1868; the total number of passengers being 430,964 in 1869 as compared with 360,624 in 1868, an increase of 19·50 per cent.

14. Similarly the receipts for each class of passengers have increased in 1869 over those 1868, the total receipts, from passengers only, being 32,637*l.* as compared with 28,463*l.* in 1868, an increase of 14·66 per cent.

15. The aggregate receipts from parcels, carriages, horses, mails, and miscellaneous items have increased from 1,572*l.* in 1868 to 2,263*l.* in 1869, and the total passenger receipts, including the above, have increased from 30,035*l.* in 1868 to 34,900*l.* in 1869, an increase of 16·19 per cent.

Goods Traffic.

16. The goods traffic on the Midland Line during 1869 shows a very large increase over that of 1868; the tonnage of sugar last year was *double* that of the previous year, the general merchandize carried increased about 70 per cent., and the total tonnage of goods

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conveyed increased from 39,369 tons in 1868 to 64,287 tons in 1869, being an increase of 63·29 per cent.

17. The goods receipts have risen from 13,419*l.* in 1868 to 22,846*l.* in 1869, or an increase of 70·25 per cent.; and the total revenue has increased from 43,454*l.* in 1868 to 57,746*l.* in 1869, being an increase of 32·89 per cent.

18. The receipts per railway mile per annum over the Midland Line have risen from 1,241*l.* in 1868 to 1,649 in 1869; and the total receipts per train mile run have increased from *s.*8·69 to *s.*9·00 in 1869.

Summary of North and Midland Lines.

19. The total number of passengers (excluding season ticket-holders) has risen from 752,381 in 1868 to 779,947 in 1869, an increase of 3·67 per cent.

20. The first-class season ticket-holders have risen in number from 1,345 in 1868 to 1,517 in 1869, an increase of nearly 13 per cent., and the holders of the second-class season tickets, who are chiefly school children, have increased in number from 259 in 1868 to 438 in 1869, an increase of about 69 per cent.

21. The total receipts from passengers, including season ticket-holders, have increased from 48,210*l.* in 1868 to 50,357*l.* in 1869, equal to 4·45 per cent.

22. The parcel traffic has also made satisfactory progress, the number of parcels conveyed having risen from 32,833 to 46,246, an increase of nearly 41 per cent.; and the total passenger receipts, including parcels, carriages, horses, mails, and miscellaneous items, have increased from 51,213*l.* in 1868 to 54,246*l.* in 1869, equal to 5·92 per cent.

Goods Traffic.

23. The tonnage of sugar conveyed has risen from 37,050 tons in 1868 to 65,760 tons in 1869, the increase being 77·5 per cent.; the tonnage of general merchandize has also risen from 47,951 in 1868 to 60,521 tons in 1869, an increase of 26 per cent.; and the total tonnage of goods has risen from 85,001 tons in 1868 to 126,281 tons in 1869, an increase of 48·5 per cent.

24. The goods receipts have augmented in nearly the same proportion, having risen from 27,491*l.* in 1868 to 41,821*l.* in 1869, an increase of 52 per cent.; and the total revenue for the year 1869 amounted to 96,067*l.* as compared with 78,704*l.* in 1868, the increase being 22 per cent.

25. Similarly the receipts per railway mile per annum have risen from 1,192*l.* to 1,455*l.*, and the receipts per train mile run have increased from *s.*7·93 to *s.*8·49, being an increase of 7·06 per cent.

26. It will be seen that the total mileage travelled by passengers has increased 4·76 per cent., and the average distance travelled per passenger has increased from 12 to 13 miles. The average receipt per passenger however remains very much the same, the difference being *s.*·01; and unfortunately there is very little increase in the average receipt per ton of goods carried, the figures being *s.*6·47 in 1868, and *s.*6·62 in 1869, or an increase of 2·32 per cent.

27. It will be noted that the average receipts per passenger are 50 per cent. higher on the Midland Line than on the North Line; but the receipts per ton of goods carried are not at all in this proportion, being 6*s.* in the former case and 7*s.* in the latter, averaging *s.*6·62 for both lines as before stated.

28. The short length of the Mauritius railways is most disadvantageous, not only in decreasing the receipts, but in increasing the expenditure; in Victoria, where the average length of line is only one-third longer than that of the Mauritius railways the average receipt per passenger for the year 1867 was 3*s.* 9*d.*; the average receipt per ton of goods carried, 16*s.* 5*d.*; and per train mile run 10*s.* In Ceylon, in the same year, with a length of line only one seventh longer than the Mauritius railways, the average receipt per passenger was 3*s.* 5*d.*; per ton of goods carried, 21*s.* 10*d.*; and per train mile run, 14*s.* 2*d.*

29. These instances show how unfavourably the Mauritius railways are situated, and that they can never be expected to yield returns similar to the railways above quoted.

Train Mileage.

30. It is evident that the increased traffic of 1869 could not be conveyed by the trains which sufficed for the business of 1868, and hence the train mileage increased from 198,516 miles in 1868, to 226,303 miles in 1869, an increase of 14 per cent.; but as the increase in the total revenue has been shown to be 22 per cent., it follows that this increased traffic has been remunerative.

Expenditure.

31. Sheet No. 2 also shows the comparative expenditure for the years 1868 and 1869, the items of which are as follows:—

32. Maintenance of way has decreased from 11,778*l.* in 1868, to 11,503*l.* in 1869, a decrease of 2·33 per cent.

33. The locomotive expenses have increased from 22,058*l.* in 1868 to 25,292*l.* in 1869, being an increase of 14·65 per cent., and it will be noted that this increase corresponds with that of the train mileage, which has already been shown to be 14 per cent.

34. The carriage and waggon repairs have also increased from 3,155*l.* in 1868 to 3,553*l.* in 1869, or 12·61 per cent., which also corresponds with the increased train mileage.

35. The traffic expenses have increased from 13,230*l.* to 14,279*l.*, or 7·92 per cent.

36. The general charges have decreased from 4,957*l.* in 1868 to 4,898*l.* in 1869, or 1·2 per cent., and to this must be added the sum of 2,291*l.* expended upon new works, which would have been charged to construction had the capital account of the railway not been closed by order of the Secretary of State.

37. Notwithstanding this sum the total expenditure has only risen from 55,259*l.* to 61,839*l.*, or 11·90 per cent., whereas, as above shown the traffic has increased 22 per cent.

38. It is satisfactory to remark that the traffic for the year 1869 amounted to 6,267*l.* beyond that contained in the estimate upon which the Colonial Budget was framed, and that the expenditure was 1,761*l.* below the sum then contemplated, making a total difference of 8,028*l.*, so that altogether a profit of 34,228*l.* has been realized instead of 26,200*l.* as then anticipated.

39. This profit is thus divided:—

	£
North Line	12,461
Midland Line	21,767
Total	34,228

being an increase of 46 per cent. over the profit of last year.

40. It will be seen that the total cost per mile run has decreased from *s.*5·56 to *s.*5·46 or one tenth of a shilling per mile run, and that the total percentage of expenditure has decreased from 70·21 in 1868 to 64·37 in 1869, or say 5·84 per cent.

41. The cost per train mile run is a fairer criterion of the expenses than the percentage of expenses to receipts, for the latter must vary according to the amount of traffic and the local circumstances in each case.

42. I have already alluded to the disadvantages of the short lines in Mauritius, and will only briefly explain that if the North Line were 50 miles instead of 31, the expenses would be but very slightly increased.

43. An engine would make a trip of 100 miles per day instead of 62, and the wages of the driver, guards, firemen, and others would not be augmented; the receipts would of course increase in proportion to the mileage, and the time occupied in loading and unloading waggons, which bears so large a proportion to the whole time of transit, is constant whether the goods be conveyed 31 or 50 miles.

44. To take a favourable illustration, suppose the time occupied by a waggon in a trip from Grand River, S.E., to Port Louis to be as follows:—

Loading	3 hours.
Transit	3 „
Unloading	3 „

It will be seen that nine hours are occupied by this trip, and if the waggon was conveyed 50 miles the receipts would be increased by 61 per cent. and only eleven hours would be occupied instead of nine, in other words, with an increased expenditure of 22 per cent. in time the receipts would be augmented 61 per cent.

45. If the time occupied in loading and unloading be more than three hours, the disadvantages of the short line are still more evident, and I allude to this circumstance in order to show that the percentage of expenses to gross receipts is but a bad criterion, unless the local circumstances are thoroughly known.

46. The total cost per train mile run (*s.*5·46) is about double the sum common in England, and as the skilled labour here costs more than twice that paid at home, and the fuel four times as much, I do not think the expenses in Mauritius at all unreasonable.

Maintenance of Way.

47. I have the satisfaction of reporting that the railway and works have been maintained in excellent condition during the past year, and that the line is being gradually improved: about $1\frac{1}{3}$ mile of rails have been turned on one side on the Midland Line, and a considerable number of new sleepers have been laid down between Union Vale and Mahebourg.

48. As an estimate of the renewals which shortly will be required on the permanent way was submitted to the Government with the railway estimates for 1870, and as the materials necessary for this year have already been ordered, I need only repeat the opinion expressed in my letter, No. 110, dated 18th February, 1869, that I believe it to be preferable to form a sinking fund for the renewal of the permanent way and rolling stock, rather than to take out of revenue year by year the sums which may thus be required.

49. I find this opinion is strongly expressed by Mr. Julian Danvers, Government Director of Indian Railway Companies in his Report to the Secretary of State for the years 1867–68, and by Mr. Higginbotham, chief engineer of the Victorian railways in his Report for the year ending 31st December, 1867, and again repeated in his Report for the year 1868.

Locomotive Power.

50. The increase in the cost of the locomotive power has been previously shown to be in proportion to the increased train mileage, and I therefore need only enclose the Report of the Locomotive Superintendent giving details on this subject.

51. The net telegraph receipts which have been included in the miscellaneous receipts amount to 486*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*, as per detailed statement of the Telegraph Superintendent herewith attached.

52. It will be noted that the messages for the public and for Government branches numbered 6,793, that messages on Railway business numbered 6,906, and that the number of trains signalled was 45,539, making a total of 59,238 messages during the year.

53. Included in these are the special messages for crossing trains at other stations than those marked on the time table, of which messages there were 539 in 1869: of these the greatest number transmitted in any one month was 125, and in one day 49.

54. The increase in the net telegraph receipts over those of last year is 85*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*, but there still remains a debit of 1,029*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.* to be borne by the Railway Department.

55. Considering the capabilities of the staff employed, and the small pay which they receive, the telegraph has been worked with fair regularity, but the amount of public business is so small that the telegraph in Mauritius is not likely ever to be self-supporting, and any increased expense necessary to obtain a superior class of lads must therefore fall upon the department.

Medical Branch.

56. From the return of the Medical Officer herewith attached it will be seen that the total number of cases of sickness in the Railway Department treated by him during the year 1869 was 891 as compared with 708 in 1868, an increase of 25·98 per cent.

57. It will be noted that the increase in the number of cases treated in 1869 over those treated in 1868, is chiefly in the first six months of the year, and the return shows that November and December, 1869, are the only months in which the cases in that year were less than those in 1868.

58. The mortality on the number of cases treated is shown to have been as follows:—

European mortality - - - -	0·78 per cent.
Indian and Creole mortality - - -	1·17 „
Total average mortality - - -	1.12 „

59. Of the number of patients treated in the hospital during 1869, it appears that the mortality of fever patients was 0·47 per cent., of patients of other diseases 5·5 per cent., and total average mortality 1·3 per cent.

60. I am happy to say that the majority of the staff now avail themselves of the benefit of medical treatment for the small payment of 1 per cent. of their respective salaries, and I doubt not this boon will in future be more fully appreciated.

61. My thanks are due to the Medical Officer for the care he has invariably shown in all cases of sickness in this department, and I would bring to the notice of His Excellency the Governor the encomium expressed by Dr. Riccard as to the attention shown by the Hospital Superintendent to the men under his care.

Accidents.

62. Fortunately no injuries whatever have been received by any passenger during the past year, but the following casualties have occurred to servants of this department and others, from their own want of caution; namely:

63. An Indian porter, named Luximan, fell while coupling on some waggons in the goods yard, the wheels of which passed over his leg, rendering amputation necessary, and he died in the Civil Hospital a few days afterwards from tetanus.

64. A Creole carpenter, named Jean Louis, was slightly injured in the foot by the wheel of a waggon to which he was attaching a break block at the time.

65. An Indian porter named Raggoo received a fatal injury in attempting to get out from between some wagons while they were in motion, and died in the Civil Hospital the same evening.

66. Assistant-guard Dunn was crushed, in consequence of standing between the buffers, at the time that he signalled the train to back.

New Works Required.

67. For the information of the Secretary of State I had the honour, in my letter, No. 489, dated 31st August last, to submit an estimate of the works still necessary to provide shelter for the rolling stock, amounting to 9,760*l.* To this was appended an estimate for new works still required, amounting to 12,250*l.* And although financial considerations may prevent the construction of these works immediately, it is but fair to the department to place on record that they are still required. The estimate of 12,250*l.* includes the sum still required for repairing the iron girders of Grand River Bridge.

68. It is very difficult equitably and practicably to close the capital account, because with increased traffic additional sidings and rolling stock from time to time become indispensable, and these new works, whenever executed, necessarily form as much a part of the cost of the railway, and therefore of the Capital Account, as if they had been constructed before the line was opened for traffic.

69. In conclusion, it is satisfactory to report that the train service has been performed with great regularity, and that the railway works and rolling stock are maintained in excellent condition.

70. To the Resident Engineer, the Locomotive Superintendent, and the officers of the staff my thanks are due for the efficient services they have rendered during the past year, and it gives me much pleasure to bear testimony to the general steadiness and good conduct of the men engaged in this department, to whose care and attention the freedom from accident is greatly to be attributed.

71. Considering the peculiar circumstances of Mauritius, altogether an agricultural country, that it has no large towns, manufactures, or minerals, that the land in the neighbourhood of the railway is already fully cultivated, and that there is no back country to develop, I think the results of the past year cannot but be deemed satisfactory, and I am not sanguine that, on the average, a much larger amount of traffic is likely to be obtained.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. R. MOSSE,
General Manager.

To the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

REPORT OF THE ACTING OFFICER OF THE CIVIL STATUS FOR THE YEAR 1869.

March 5, 1870.

Population.

At the close of the year 1868 the estimated resident population of Mauritius, exclusive of the military and shipping, amounted to 324,402, of which number 115,503 belonged to the general class, which includes Europeans, Creoles, Chinese, &c., and 208,899 to the Indian. The general population numbered 63,320 males, and 52,183 females; the Indian, 141,391 males and 67,508 females. These figures are taken from the Blue Book for 1868, which contains a series of tables, based on the census of 1861, most carefully compiled by Mr. Kyshe, of the Colonial Secretary's department, to whom we are much indebted for his valuable contributions to the vital statisticsof the Colony. In a foot-note to the population returns it is stated that the figures are "only approximately correct" as regards the general population. The remark would probably apply with equal force to the Indian,

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for considering the great preponderance of males in that section of the people, the Indian birth-rate is abnormally high, inducing an inference that the female element has been underrated. Accepting these figures however as they stand, the population of the Island on the 31st December, 1869, had fallen to 322,924. The general population gained 352 by an excess of births over deaths, and 298 by an excess of arrivals over departures. The Indian population lost 2,128 of its number from the opposite causes, the deaths having exceeded the births by 1,668, and the departures the arrivals by 460. The general population contained 63,604 males and 52,549 females, total 116,153; the Indian, 138,883 males and 67,888 females, total 206,771.

The estimated population of Port Louis at the close of the year was 64,300.

Before another Annual Report issues from this office, it is probable that a new census of the population will have been taken. This question will no doubt receive the early attention of the Government, and all the preliminary steps necessary be taken in good time, so as to prevent the possibility of failure in carrying out an object of such importance, and one attended with so many difficulties as it must necessarily be in Mauritius, with its mixed population.

Marriages.

The total number of marriages registered in the year was 768, of which 334 were Indian. The latter were more numerous than in any one of the previous eight years. It is interesting to observe the different effect produced on the marriage rate of the two sections of the population, by the cholera epidemic of 1862–3, and that of the fever epidemic of subsequent years. In 1862–3 the number of Indian marriages fell from 247 in 1861 to 173 and 176 in the two following years; whilst those of the general population scarcely varied, having been 546, 550, and 540, respectively in the three years 1861–2–3. But in the years 1866–7, the effect on both populations was alike; in one the annual number of marriages fell to 411 and 372; in the other to 163 and 112; but in 1868–9 the number of Indian marriages increased to 288 and 334, whilst those of general population reached only 409 and 434; the marriage rate of the latter, although steadily rising, being still far below the average of the previous five years, whilst that of the Indian has surpassed it.

The total number of religious marriages celebrated in the year has not been ascertained, returns having been received only from the Anglo-Catholic Church, which were as follows:—Port Louis Cathedral, 24; St. Mary's, 6; Vacoa, 1; Pamplemousses, 1; Moka, 1; Plaines Wilhems, 4: total, 37.

Births.

The total number of living births registered in the year, exclusive of those belonging to the military, shipping, and dependencies, was 9,979, of which 5,112 were males and 4,867 females. The annual birth rate of the general population was 3·22; that of the Indian, 3·02. The total birth rate was 3·09. The birth rate of Port Louis was 3·37. Amongst the general population the births exceeded the deaths by 352; amongst the Indian the deaths exceeded the births by 1,668. In both classes the male births exceeded the female; in the former by 20, and in the latter by 27 per 1,000. Compared with 1868 there was a total increase of 536 in the number of births, a large proportion of which (four-fifths) were registered as belonging to the general population. Port Louis showed the greatest increase (687), Flacq the greatest decrease (239). In the other districts the difference was not so remarkable. In the first six months of the year the deaths exceeded the births by 3,439; in the last six months the births exceeded the deaths by 2,123. The total excess of deaths over births was 1,316, but in the districts of Grand Port, Savanne, and Moka the total births in the year exceeded the deaths; in the first by 431, in the second by 129, and in the third by 68.

The total number of still-births was 695, being about one in every 15 births. The proportion varied considerably in different districts, being highest in Port Louis, one in $8\frac{1}{2}$, and lowest in Savanne, one in 32.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered in the year, exclusive of those belonging to the military, shipping, and dependencies, which will be found in a separate table, was 11,295, against 18,640 in the preceding year. Of the general population there died 1,881 males, and 1,488 females, total 3,369; of the Indian 5,356 males, and 2,570 females, total 7,926. In the previous year the total number of deaths in the two classes were respectively 6,454 and 12,186. A preponderance of male deaths in both populations might naturally be expected, but it is somewhat singular to find it relatively greater in the general than in the Indian population: for instance, in the former the males are estimated to form 54 per cent.

of the population, and the mortality of males was 55·8 of the total number of deaths; in the latter the males form 67 per cent. of the population, and the mortality of males was only 67 per cent. of the total deaths. The excess of male over female deaths in the general population was greater than it had been in any one of the previous eight years. There was a decline in the mortality of every district, but it was by no means uniform; Port Louis showed to most advantage, where the decrease was 3,882, and Flacq the least, where the difference was only 147. Next to Port Louis, Grand Port manifested the most marked improvement. The number of deaths registered in the last six months of the year was less by 3,315 than in the first six months.

The death rate of the general population was 2·91; that of the Indian, 3·83. The death rate of Port Louis on both populations was 4·46. The total death rate of the Island was 3·50, or 35 per 1,000 of the population.

These rates have been calculated on the mean population of the year.

Causes of Death.

General Diseases. — A.

Fever was the registered cause of 6,330 deaths, of which number 6,148 were recorded as from fever simply, 81 from intermittent, 25 remittent, 66 malarious cachexia, and 4 typhoid or enteric fever; 3 fever complicated with diarrhœa; 5 fever with ulcers; and 2 fever with scurvy. The aggregate of these deaths formed 56 per cent. of the total mortality of the year. Of the 81 deaths from intermittent, 74 occurred at Port Louis and 6 at Grand Port; of the 25 from remittent, 23 occurred at Port Louis; and of the 66 from Malarious Cachexia, 47 were registered at Port Louis. Now as these 172 deaths formed a large majority of the deaths from fever, the causes of which were medically certified, it may be fairly inferred that a very large proportion, if not the whole, of the cases which were registered as deaths from fever, belonged to one or other of these varieties of the same disease.

The proportion of deaths from fever to total deaths, amongst the general population, was 44 per cent.; amongst the Indians, nearly 61 per cent. The proportion in both classes was as follows, in the several districts: In Flacq, 67; Pamplemousses and Black River, 66; Port Louis, 54; Savanne, 52; Grand Port, 51; Rivière du Rempart, 50; Moka, 53; and Plaines Wilhems, 39.

The number of deaths from fever exceeded that from all other causes in each of the first seven months of the year, as it did in 1868; and also, as in 1868, the proportion of deaths from that cause declined in August, and continued to form the minor part of the monthly mortality with one trifling exception until the end of the year.

The largest number of deaths recorded in any one month in 1868 was 2,781 in March. The most fatal month in 1869 was April, when the number of deaths registered was 1,456. The lowest monthly mortality in each year was that of November, when the number of deaths recorded was respectively 711 and 518.

The proportion of deaths from diarrhœa and dysentery was highest in Plaines Wilhems, viz. 17 per cent. In Grand Port it was 15, in Flacq 14, in Moka and Savanne 13, in Port Louis 11, in Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart 9, and in Black River 8.

There were 3 deaths from simple cholera, 2 of which occurred at Grand Port, and 1 at Moka.

44 deaths were registered from sore throat, but only one from diphtheria (at Plaines Wilhems). As a large proportion of these deaths occurred at Flacq, where fatal cases of diphtheria have since been recognized and reported, a certain number were probably due to that fatal form of disease.

There were 31 deaths from hooping cough, which appears to have prevailed pretty generally during the early part of the year, as the only two districts which were exempt from fatal cases were Port Louis and Black River. A large proportion of the deaths from that cause occurred at Savanne in the first quarter of the year.

Phagedenic ulcers and hospital gangrene caused 100 deaths, the vagrant depôt furnishing numerous cases. These were probably sequels of malarial fever, and were most common in the early part of the year. The same may be said of erysipelas as regards the period of its occurrence, which was the registered cause of 23 deaths.

B.

Rheumatism caused 17 deaths, but whether acute, that is to say, rheumatic fever, or some other form of the disease, there is no record to show. Syphilitic disease was fatal to 14 men, 3 women, and 3 children; Flacq and Plaines Wilhems contributing more than half the number of cases.

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There were 23 deaths from cancer, 9 of which occurred amongst the general population, and 14 amongst the Indian; 14 of the total number were males.

Of the 58 deaths from leprosy, 31 were registered at Port Louis, and 10 at Flacq; 34 Indian men, 1 woman, and 1 boy; 13 Creole men and 8 women; and one Chinaman succumbed to that fell disease during the year.

Scrofula and consumption were the registered causes of 568 deaths; 201 of which occurred at Port Louis, the other districts contributed their quota in about equal proportions, except Black River, which only furnished 8.

Tabes Mesenterica was assigned as the cause of 47 deaths, principally from Grand Port and Pamplemousses, but medical certificates are more commonly given in those districts; and it by no means follows that the other districts were exempt from such disease.

There were 14 deaths from scurvy, a large proportion from the vagrant depot.

136 deaths were registered from dropsy; Flacq and Plaines Wilhems contributing largely to the number. The Poor Law Asylum being situated in the latter district, tends to swell the death rate of Plaines Wilhems considerably.

The total number of deaths at the Asylum in the year was 443, of which only 78 were of persons belonging to the district, 272 were from Port Louis, 31 Moka, 21 Black River, 18 Grand Port, 12 Savanne, 9 Pamplemousses, 22 Flacq.

LOCAL DISEASES.

Nervous System.

Inflammation of the brain and its membranes were the registered causes of 7 deaths; apoplexy, sun stroke, and congestion of the brain 92, of which 37 were at Port Louis; and 3 deaths were caused by lightning at Grand Port.

Diseases of the spinal cord caused 4 deaths, paralysis 16, tetanus 60, the subjects being 2 adult male Europeans and 1 child; 5 Creole men, 2 women, and 7 children; 17 Indian men, 4 women, and 22 children. Thus half the total number were adults, and 42 of the 60 were males, Port Louis furnished 21 of these deaths, and Flacq 11.

There were 4 deaths during the year from hydrophobia, 3 of which occurred at Port Louis (2 at the Civil Hospital), and 1 at Flacq; the subjects of which disease were 1 Creole, 1 European, and 2 Indians, all males.

62 deaths were registered from convulsions, 53 of which were infantile; to which might probably be added a large proportion of 112 deaths recorded from "dentition."

Epiplepsy caused 28 deaths, viz.: 1 European, 6 Creoles, and 18 Indian men, 1 Indian woman, and 2 boys. It appears from a return kindly furnished by Dr. Dickson that 19 insane persons died during the year at the Lunatic Asylum, one of whom was an European female; 5 were male, and 2 female Creoles; and 7 were male and 4 female Indians. Only 4 of the whole number died from disease of the brain, 3 died from lung disease, 1 from disease of the kidneys, 1 from rupture of the spleen, 4 from fever and its consequences, 1 from ulceration of the stomach, 1 from scurvy, 1 from perforation of the bowels, and 3 from scrofula and debility.

Diseases of the circulatory system caused 64 deaths, viz.: 2 "pericarditis," 4 "aneurism," and 58 "disease of the heart."

Diseases of the absorbent system caused 5 deaths, all of which were described as "disease of the glands." Disease of the glands, particularly the inguinal glands, in young persons, appears to be rather common in Mauritius, and the subject has lately attracted the attention of an eminent English physician.

In addition to the deaths from hooping cough, diphtheria, and sore throat, which are included in the general diseases, disease of the respiratory organs caused 472 deaths, viz.: 1 "laryngitis," 177 "catarrh," 188 "bronchitis," 37 "asthma," 62 "pneumonia," and 7 "pleurisy." Very few of these deaths were registered under medical certificates, otherwise the trifling effect produced by climate and season in determining the mortality from these causes would appear remarkable, the number of deaths having varied but little in the four quarters of the year.

Diseases of the digestive organs were fatal in 1,562 cases, 6 were registered from gastritis, 24 enteritis, 6 colic, 1,224 dysentery: of which last, 862 were registered in the first six months of the year; Port Louis, Plaines Wilhems, and Flacq contributed 724 of the total number. "Hernia" was the registered cause of 11 deaths, "worms" 39, "diarrhœa" 191. No death from the last-mentioned disease was registered at Black River, and that district contributed the smallest proportion of deaths from dysentery.

It would of course be impossible to determine what proportion of the numerous deaths, annually registered, from dysentery, diarrhœa, and other "bowel affections" (a common

term employed), are due to the drinking of impure water; but there is no doubt that a large amount of sickness and disease might be traced to that cause. The two things most essentially necessary to healthy life are pure air and pure water, and a large class of the people in Mauritius enjoy neither the one nor the other.

They live for the most part in ill-ventilated, badly-drained, and over-crowded hovels, and the water they drink, whether taken from river or canal, is polluted in a variety of ways. The law unfortunately does not give power to the Board of Health to deal with these evils, although they are well known to exist. The Building Act does not apply to the rural districts, and how to prevent the pollution of our rivers and canals is a problem yet to be solved; but even were that difficulty overcome, another of equal importance remains—that of obtaining a sufficient supply of water for the increasing wants of our rapidly growing villages. These questions have doubtlessly received the attention of the Procureur-General, and will, it may be hoped, find their solution in the new Sanitary Ordinance.

"Diseases of the liver" caused 38 deaths; viz. hepatitis 33, jaundice 1, gallstones and cirrhosis 3; rupture of the spleen was the registered cause of 13 deaths. A large proportion of these cases (diseases of liver and spleen) were, doubtless, complications of malarial fever.

Four deaths were registered from fistula, but of what nature was not stated—probably "fistula in ano" was intended.

Twenty-four deaths were registered from diseases of the "urinary organs," viz. two from "retention of urine," 18 "disease of the bladder," 2 "gravel," 1 "hydrocele," and 1 "calculus." The last-mentioned disease (stone in the bladder) appears to be very uncommon in Mauritius. The case was that of an adult male Indian, and occurred at Black River.

Under the head of diseases consequent on parturition, 123 deaths were registered, 122 of which were described as deaths from "child birth" simply; and 1 from puerperal fever. 42 belonged to the general population, and 81 to the Indian.

The proportion of deaths from this cause to the number of child-bearing women was 1 in 79. In England it is about 1 in 200; in other words it is 199 to 1 against a woman dying in child-bed in England, and only 78 to 1 in Mauritius.

Diseases of the "organs of locomotion" furnished 8 deaths, and diseases of the "cutaneous" system 9; of the latter 7 were of the "parasitic order," "scabies," or itch, which is not often a fatal malady.

183 deaths were ascribed to old age, and the large number of 612 to "debility," which of all causes is the most unsatisfactory.

The number of deaths from violence or accident amounted to 333. Of the former may be mentioned 15 "homicides," 90 "suicides," 23 "fractures," "contusions," "wounds," and "blows"; of the latter 31 recorded as accidental, without any particulars being given; 13 "poisoning," 6 "asphyxia," 2 "crushed," and 45 "burns" and "scalds." The 35 deaths from "drowning" are presumed to have been accidental.

The number of suicides was nearly the same in each quarter of the year, and is maintained year after year with deplorable regularity. I had been led into an error when I stated in a previous Report that all the suicides, with one exception, had occurred amongst the Indian population. A careful search into the registers gives the following results: 81 Indians, 2 Chinese, 5 Creoles, and 2 Europeans. Suicide has become a thing of such frequent occurrence amongst the Indians, as to have ceased to cause a sensation. But certain questions naturally occur to the reflecting mind, Are the Indians, as a race in their own country, prone to suicide? If not, what are the local circumstances and conditions which make the crime so common in Mauritius? The average annual number of suicides in England is 65 to 1,000,000 persons living, against 270 in Mauritius.

The victims of homicide consisted of 2 Creole men and 1 girl; 5 Indian men, 3 women, and 3 children. The average annual number of homicides in England is about 16 to 1,000,000 persons living.

Of the deaths from "poisoning" it is known that several occurred from persons incautiously eating the seeds of the "pois noir," a variety of the "achari," a plant grown by agriculturists for the purpose of "assolement," and the circumstance has lately been brought to the notice of the Chamber of Agriculture by the General Board of Health.

Of the 13 deaths from poison, 11 were of male adults, and all but two were Indians.

Of the 45 persons burnt or scalded to death 1 was an adult female belonging to the Creole population; 4 were male and 5 female adult Indians; the remainder were children, 10 of whom belonged to the general population.

It would be impossible for any professional man to cast his eye over the list of fatal diseases in Table VI, without being struck by the vague and unsatisfactory character of some

Mauritius. of the registered causes of death—6,220 "fever," 177 "catarrh," 191 "diarrhœa," 136 "dropsy," 612 "debility." What information is given by these words and figures? Very little indeed, even if they were reliable; but as a very large proportion of those deaths were registered on the verbal testimony of ignorant or uneducated witnesses, they are almost valueless. Are medical men agreed that there is but one kind of fever in Mauritius, and that all cases of fever are modifications of one and the same disease? if not, it is to be regretted that they do not recognize the importance of having the *true* cause of every death recorded in the registers.

Catarrh is not a dangerous disease, and seldom fatal unless complicated with some organic mischief. Diarrhœa is generally but a symptom of some more serious malady. The same may be said of dropsy, which may arise from disease of the heart, the liver, or the kidneys; and as for debility, it is no disease at all, the term being used merely as a cloak to cover ignorance.

It would be scarcely too much to say that under the present system of registration, the only reliable thing, in the majority of cases, is the *fact* of death.

In support of the opinion I expressed in my last Quarterly Report that the malarious poison had lost much of its intensity, as indicated by the mild character of the present form of fever, and the comparative immunity enjoyed by new comers, and those who, although exposed to its influence, fortunately escaped attacks during the height of the epidemic, it is reported by the medical inspectors of Estate hospitals, Drs. Desjardins and Gouly, that several instances have come under their observation of newly-arrived immigrants having entirely escaped attacks in some of the least healthy parts of the Island, and in camps where returns and relapses of fever were still rife among the old Indians; and notably in one, where the disease prevailed in its most fatal form. Such instances were noted at Flacq, Black River, and Petite Savanne, where intermittent fever still prevails near the coast.

So far as a progressive diminution in the number of deaths may be considered an indication of a progressive improvement in the public health, this Report is highly favourable, and is calculated to give general satisfaction. But the death rate of a people is by no means a sure criterion of the amount of sickness prevailing; although in regard to dangerous sickness it is the best and safest guide we can have. Febrile affections are no doubt common still; they are always common in tropical countries; and especially so in Mauritius, at this season of the year. Besides we have around us still the dying embers of that fire which burned for two years with such deadly effect, and which will probably take another cool season to quench entirely. Those embers may still possess a certain amount of life, and here and there perhaps break into a flame, as at Flacq; but let us hope that the fuel which feeds the fire, the poison, generated under peculiar and exceptional meteorological conditions, is nearly exhausted, and that although we may never hope to get rid of malarious fever entirely, Mauritius will before long resume its place as one of the healthiest of the British Colonies within the tropics.

C. F. EDWARDS, Acting Officer of the Civil Status.

Report on Government Savings' Bank.

Sir, Government Savings' Bank, April 1, 1870.

I have now the honour to lay before your Excellency the Annual Report of the Government Savings' Bank for the past year, 1869. It is accompanied with the usual appendices, containing the necessary details of its operation during that period, which, I am happy to be able to report, continue to show further improvement in its position, though there were 45 fewer depositors when compared with the operations of the previous year, and 1,269*l.* less in the amount of the deposits, the falling off being more than compensated by a decrease of 6,389*l.* in the amount withdrawn. This latter circumstance shows a decrease in the desire and in the necessity on the part of the saving portion of the community to fall back on their savings, though they were not able to augment them.

2. It may therefore be assumed, that the good effect of the abundant crop with which it had pleased the Almighty to bless the Colony, accompanied by a further amelioration of the distressing circumstances attending a severe epidemic fever, had commenced to manifest itself in the improved condition of all classes, particularly the industrious, who best understand and appreciate the usefulness of a savings' bank.

3. That this desirable change is not of a transitory character, may be fairly inferred from the operations of the bank since the commencement of the year, as shown by a comparison between the months of January and February last, with those of a similar period last year, which stands as follows:—

Years.	No. of New Depositors and Reopened Accounts.	No. of Accounts closed.	Amount deposited.	Amount withdrawn, including Interest.
			£	£
1870 - -	321	270	15,206	11,174
1869 - -	266	246	13,130	11,919
Increase - -	55	24	2,076	—
Decrease - -	—	—	—	745

and establishes an increase of 55 depositors, and of 2,076*l.* in the amount deposited—a small increase of 24 in the number of accounts closed, but a decrease of 745*l.* in the amount withdrawn. Both increase and decrease being as favourable as could be expected.

4. I may now further add, that the withdrawals, except for investments (always a favourable circumstance) have been principally confined to the interest due on the past savings, no desire being exhibited to trench further upon them, but which have been, as yet, allowed to remain in the bank as an investment, from which a certain amount of income may be derived.

5. This has been the case with a large number of Indian depositors, who appear, each year, better to understand and appreciate the utility of a savings' bank and the advantages they gain by making use of it, instead of burying their savings in the earth, or risking their almost certain loss by lending, or rather giving them, to their comrades or others, with the hope of getting an exorbitant rate of interest.

6. Appendix No. 1* contains a general statement of the operations of the bank during the past year, and when compared with those of the preceding year gives a small decrease of 45 new depositors, and of 150 in the number of the deposits made, causing a decrease of 1,269*l.* in the total amount deposited. This latter diminution may be, in some measure, attributed to the reduced scale of remuneration and wages which have for some time prevailed, and which necessarily decreased the power of saving, and the means of liquidating outstanding obligations, the good effects of an abundant crop not having fully developed itself before the close of the year, and also to the decreased desire which prevailed largely in 1868 to avail of this bank as a place of deposit during a time of mistrust, a circumstance referred to in my Annual Report for that year.

* Appendices not printed.

7. Although the statement shows an increase of 60 in the number of accounts closed, and 320 in the number of withdrawals, there was a large decrease of 6,389*l.* in the total amount withdrawn, indicating a marked decrease in the demands for assistance, and causing a fair improvement in the position of the bank at the close of the year, as shown by the following comparative statement:—

	No. of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
		£
1869 - -	7413	- 172,730
1868 - -	7113	- 165,754
Increase of -	300	- £6,976

8. Appendix No. 2* gives a monthly statement of the operations of the bank during the year; the general result stands as follows:—

* Appendices not printed.

Years.	No. of New Depositors.	Amount deposited.	No. of Accounts closed.	Amount withdrawn, including Interest.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1868 - -	1501	61,354 8 $1\frac{3}{4}$	1096	66,898 18 $5\frac{3}{4}$
1869 - -	1456	60,085 2 3	1156	60,510 0 $9\frac{1}{2}$
Increase -	—	—	60	—
Decrease - -	45	1,269 5 $10\frac{3}{4}$	—	6,388 17 $8\frac{1}{4}$

The sums deposited and withdrawn were as follows:—

	Amount deposited.	Amount withdrawn.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By the general population - -	38,085 9 4	- 39,974 16 10
,, Indian ,, - -	21,999 12 11	- 20,535 3 $11\frac{1}{2}$

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9. Appendix No. 3 explains in detail the principal causes of the withdrawal of deposit. A comparison with the previous year shows a decrease of 1,013*l.* on the part of the Indian population, and 2,131*l.* on the part of the general population; it also shows in comparison with 1867 a considerable reduction in both classes.

10. As regards the Indians the principal cause of decrease was the reduced number (188) who left the Colony, taking with them 5,622*l.*, giving an average of nearly 30*l.* per Indian. It is gratifying to be able to point out that the remainder of the amount withdrawn was, from the best information that could be obtained at the time of withdrawal, invested in the Colony in the purchase of animals, carts, commercial purposes, land and other investment, and a trifling sum (41*l.*) on account of epidemic fever. The sums paid on account of successions have continued to be moderate.

11. With respect to the general population, one of the chief causes of withdrawal was the settlement of successions.

12. Appendix No. 4 gives in detail the several classes of depositors belonging to the Indian and general population, and shows, as regards the former, that the agricultural labourers, artizans, and mechanics continue to augment in number and in the amount of their deposits, and that the first-named class hold 36,557*l.*, or 53·00 per cent. of the Indian deposits; servants and miscellaneous have fallen off, and the deposits held on account of their children continue about the same.

13. The general population does not exhibit the same decided marks of improvement; the agricultural labourers have fallen off in number, but increased in the amount by 1,085*l.*; while the artizans and mechanics and servants have decreased in amount of their deposits, the former by 787*l.*, and the latter by 656*l.* There has been an increase of 4,249*l.* in the sums deposited for the benefit of children, and a small increase of 1,252*l.* in the deposits made by Government servants.

14. Appendix No. 5 refers to the branch banks, and shows a small increase of 21 in the number of new depositors, but attended with a decrease of 37 in number of deposits, and of 180*l.* in the amount deposited. As all accounts are closed and regulated at the Central Bank, no comparison can be drawn as regards withdrawals at the branch banks.

15. The chief falling off in the deposits took place in the Grand Port and Savanne districts; this latter district being more distant from Port Louis, has for the last two years shown a satisfactory increase. The decrease has been more than covered by an increase in the Flacq, Riv. du Rempart, Black River, and Plaines Wilhems districts, aided by a slight increase in Pamplemousses and Moka.

15. Appendices Nos. 6 and 7 refer to the distribution and fluctuation in the classes of depositors and the amount of deposits which stood to the credit of each class at the end of the year, being of themselves sufficiently explanatory, call for no observation.

16. Appendix No. 8 contains a monthly classification of the several deposits made and withdrawn during the year: it calls for no explaining observations beyond those noted in the statement.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. C. BROWNRIGG,
Acting Manager.

To His Excellency the Governor.
&c. &c. &c.

The following is the Report of Mr. Bruce, Rector of the Royal College, read at the Distribution of Prizes on the 17th instant:—

At the last distribution of prizes, I explained at some length the principles by which I proposed to guide myself in the endeavour to perfect the Royal College as a machine for raising the general level of secondary and superior instruction throughout the Colony; and I exhibited the outlines of a scheme in which the Royal College appears in a twofold agency; as an institution putting within easy reach of all or nearly all to whom such a boon is likely to be acceptable the advantages of higher instruction; and secondly, as a central impulse controlling the whole region of study between the Government primary schools and its own classes. The details of this scheme have been so often and so elaborately discussed that I need not now repeat them. On the present occasion I may confine myself to a few words upon what has been done during the last eighteen months in the way of securing the integrity of the College studies, and then pass on to consider the initial operations of the scheme to which I have alluded and the promise which it affords.

Since the last commemoration of this annual festival we have received the gratifying intelligence, that two of our candidates for matriculation at the University of London

have passed with great credit. Mr. Hullard and Mr. Cretin, to whom the English scholarships were assigned last year, have been placed, the former in the 6th and the latter in the 30th place in the Honours Division, and as there were between 500 and 600 candidates, I think we may fairly congratulate ourselves upon this result, especially as this is the first occasion upon which any of our candidates have been placed in the Honours Division. All those pupils of the highest class who had not previously passed the matriculation examination have recently competed, but the result will not reach us for some time. When the class resumes work, it will begin to study for the first B. A. examination. I must add, however, that we have not been confining ourselves exclusively to the studies prescribed by the University of London; in classics especially, some of our young people have read far beyond those requirements—with what success they will soon be able to show, for arrangements are now being concluded with a regularly-organized board of examiners in England to conduct the examination for the English scholarships to be held in December next. Those valuable rewards have this year been postponed in accordance with a resolution of the Council of Education. Our object in having two examinations, during the four years of the regular College course, conducted by examiners in England, has been to secure a public and impartial criterion of the vitality of our studies by submitting our candidates for superior instruction to examinations independent of the College authorities. As I have already explained in another place, while we invite free adventure in the matter of secondary instruction to submit to a fair public criterion of its merits, we are anxious to submit the Government institution to a similar but more stringent test.

When I first assumed charge of the Royal College, there were 120 pupils on the books, 74 in the College school, and 46 in the College proper, as it has hitherto been called. We have now 70 in the College proper and 95 in the school; if these numbers do not evince so considerable a rise as may have been expected, I think I shall be able to prove that, rightly estimated, the position of the establishment has within the last eighteen months, nearly half of which were necessarily spent in arranging the details of a reformed organization, been greatly elevated in public estimation, as well as in its power of influencing the whole educational system of the Colony.

In the first place it is now admitted on all sides that however well private enterprise, properly organized and under legitimate control, may be able to provide the Colony with elementary instruction, superior instruction cannot be properly provided except through the liberal intervention of Government and the public grant made to the Royal College. Competition with the higher classes of the College may be said to have ceased almost, if not quite altogether. That is a very important step gained, and I am persuaded that it will lead to large and beneficial results; not all at once, of course. There seems to be an impatience on the part of some of the public to see the class-rooms of the College filled with industrious and learned students; it is forgotten that superior studies can only rest securely on a basis of elementary instruction which has to be acquired slowly and laboriously. I do not myself expect to see the full results of our reforms and our reorganization in perfect operation for three or four years to come. I trust that I am justified in the hope that at the end of that time the educational position of the Colony will, through the instrumentality of the Royal College, have reached an elevation such as it has never yet attained, and not below the level of similar institutions in more wealthy and, in educational facilities, more highly favoured countries.

But if the highest classes of the College are to give proof of sound and accurate scholarship, it is certain that a good beginning is all important, and for this reason a method of raising the level of secondary instruction, that pupils may enter the Royal College able to pursue their studies with advantage to themselves has been the subject of earnest deliberation. The system which is now on trial, has, so far as we can judge from its initial operations, given, I think I may venture to say, not unsatisfactory promise of future success. I should not think it necessary to enter into any explanation of a scheme which discussion has made so familiar, were it not that a misunderstanding has apparently arisen as to the motives of the Council of Education and of myself with reference to one part of the scheme: I refer to the abolition of the College School.

The proposal to abolish the College School was not founded upon any contract with the heads of private schools. It was founded solely upon the opinion that in a properly-organized and controlled system of private schools, the educational requirements of the public would be better satisfied than in a single endowed establishment. That an advantage, a very important advantage, would thus necessarily accrue to the private establishments is obvious; but anxious as we are to secure the co-operation of these establishments, the personal advantages of a few individuals, however honourable, could not have been a sufficient motive to justify us in proposing a system which we did not think the best independently of all personal considerations. As my name has been brought

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very prominently forward in complaints which have lately been based upon a misunderstanding of this point, I am anxious personally to disclaim any intentions incompatible with what I am now stating, and I am almost certain that in what I say I have the consent of every member of the Council of Education. At all events, it is distinctly stated in the new programme, that the College School will not be dispensed with until a system of private schools is organized in which a parent can be certain of finding every benefit which he could possibly derive from the College School as it at present exists. It seems to me impossible that the Council of Education should ever approve any other determination than this, and if I thought it possible I should certainly divest myself of all responsibility for a resolution which I should consider fatal to the best interests of the community.

Having said thus much to put at rest if possible any further misinterpretation of the new scheme, I will now proceed to exhibit the results of the first examination held under its provisions; and considering the many difficulties which have arisen, the novelty of the scheme, and the complete disorganization and want of uniformity which had hitherto prevailed, these results are not without cheerful promise.

I have already stated that in November, 1868, there were 74 pupils in the College School. It was hoped that by inducing the heads of private schools to embrace a uniform system of education, and to give a fair public criterion of their energy and success, by sending their pupils to compete in central examinations conducted by independent authorities, most of the benefits which the Royal College School offers would very shortly be secured in private schools, while some advantages which private establishments have over endowments would be maintained. Nor does it seem likely that our hopes are to be disappointed. The results of the present examination have indeed fallen out, on the whole, greatly in favour of the College School; but it must be borne in mind that only a few months have elapsed since the new system assumed a definite shape, and while in the upper classes, the pupils of private establishments have not generally risen to the standard of the College School boys, yet in the third class a very close and equal competition gives us good hopes that on future occasions the exertions of private teachers will meet with more success.

The College School at present contains 95 pupils; from the schools which have associated themselves with our system, I have received lists showing that 165 pupils are following the programme approved by the Council of Education, while 50 more are on the point of commencing the studies it prescribes. While therefore eighteen months ago, the Royal College School exercised no control whatever on the secondary instruction of the Island beyond the 70 pupils in its class-rooms, its influence has within this brief period reached nearly 300 of the youth of the Colony. As a beginning this is well, but it would of course be much more satisfactory were I able to add that a majority of these boys had given proof of the benefits which we believe them to be receiving, by entering as candidates at the examination just held.

On the day of examination 90 candidates presented themselves for the three classes to be examined, of whom 56 belonged to the College School and 34 to private institutions.

1st Class,	College School,	20;	Private Schools,	4 =	24
2nd „	„	20	„	7 =	27
3rd „	„	16	„	23 =	39

Following the example of the University of London, we have divided each of the lists into three divisions: the Honours Division, and the first and second divisions. In the Honours Division the marks gained by each candidate have been given for all subjects. In the second and third divisions the names of the candidates only are given in order of merit. We have adopted this plan because our object is not that one or two pupils should be "crammed" in each school to secure a good position, but that the private schools may be induced to send all or nearly all their pupils, to show what is the general standard of education in their establishments. It is not likely that any system will succeed in making all the boys in a class industrious, intelligent, and successful; and therefore if we were to publish all the results we should give a prominence to the defects of pupils not industrious or not very intelligent, productive of no good effect on the pupils themselves and likely to prejudice unduly the interests of those to whom their education is entrusted. In order to judge of the standard of a school, attention will in future have to be paid to its furnishing a fair number of pupils to the Honours Divisions, and as few as possible to the second division: pupils who have prepared for an examination and do not appear, may generally be considered by parents as likely to figure in the lowest division.

I will now read the examination lists—they will be published as soon as possible in the

'Government Gazette,' and those who are interested in them can then study them at their leisure.

First Class.

The results of the examination in this class are on the whole very satisfactory. Considering the age of those boys of the College School who have most distinguished themselves, the number of its representatives, and the creditable way in which they have acquitted themselves, I feel bound to express my thanks to those gentlemen who have prepared them for this examination—especially to Mr. Avice, Mr. Haddon, and Mr. Thomé. Two of the candidates from private schools have also passed very creditably, but on the whole the result is not such as could lead us to believe that the organization of the private schools is at present as perfect as the interests of the community demand that it shall be, before we abolish the school classes.

Some complaint has arisen with reference to the case of the candidate who stands second on the list, on the ground that he was in the College proper, and has been allowed to compete in the College School. The objection seems to me hard to sustain, inasmuch as no condition was attached to this privilege of competition except a limit of age. It surprised me to find that some persons who advocated the interests of the private schools object so loudly to a boy of twelve years of age competing with others who had nearly completed their fifteenth year. As Norvill has been for about three years a pupil of the Royal College School, it should seem that no evidence could speak more highly in favour of the manner in which he has been educated.

Second Class.

In this class a pupil of the private schools is first. This position is most honourable to him, but considering that all the rest of the boys in the Honours Division and the three first in the second division are from the College School, the success of that institution has certainly been maintained in this class as well. As I have said, we should consider our scheme a failure if it led to one or two intelligent boys being pushed forward to the possible, almost inevitable, neglect of the rest.

Third Class.

In this class the candidates from private schools were in a majority, and the result has been a fair and creditable competition with the pupils of the College School. It is to this class that we must look in a year or two to decide as to the success or failure of our system.

It may be that I regard the results of the examination which I have communicated with undue partiality, but I cannot think that any person of sound judgment with those results to judge from, could recommend the immediate or proximate abolition of the College School. Such a proposal is clearly based on the probability of the private schools furnishing us with a more abundant supply for the higher classes of the College than we can look for from the College School alone. It is not four or five candidates for admission to the College that we expect, but forty or fifty—without such a number we could not possibly have—as we ought to have—from 150 to 200 students pursuing the higher course we have appointed. It may be that we are over-ambitious—but that is our expectation, and if there are, as I am assured, within a few months of the first organization of our system, nearly 300 boys in the Colony being prepared according to the official programme, I see no reason why something over half that number should not in a few years be found in the class-rooms of the Royal College.

In the present examination only four boys (and one of them at a somewhat advanced age) have been prepared for admission to the higher course. Judging from the examination of the second class, we can scarcely hope for a much larger result next year. To the following year we may look forward with more confidence, and the College Committee are unanimous in believing that before that time there is no prospect of their being justified in recommending the abolition of the College classes.

The public guarantee of their energy and success offered by the Associated Schools in our central examinations ought I think to influence parents in their choice of a school, and to induce such a pressure upon all free educational enterprise as shall before long bring all the private establishments within reach of our system. It is a large and comprehensive system; its provisions admit of no equivocation or disguise; it is elastic and easily capable of such improvements as the supreme intelligence of the community may from time to time suggest.

For the rest the examination lists will speak for themselves. There remains for me only the agreeable task of expressing my best thanks to all who have co-operated with my endeavours to promote the educational interests of our community. To the President and

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members of the Council of Education I am deeply indebted for the consideration with which they have always received my views. Such differences of opinion as have arisen have led only to earnest deliberations, by which the community has certainly profited. I take this opportunity of congratulating the President of the Council of Education on the remarkable success which his son has achieved in the general competitive examination, and the Vice-President of the Council, whose assistance I regret to say we have been deprived of on the College Committee, on the success of his son in the highest class of the Royal College.

To my colleagues at the Royal College I have to offer my cordial acknowledgment of the promptitude and ability with which they have assisted me. The harmony which pervades all our relations cannot be otherwise than beneficial for the general good. I trust that the brighter prospects of the Colony will shortly enable the Government to offer some of my colleagues a more substantial recognition of their services than the expression of my thanks.

Lastly, I have to express my obligations to those heads of private schools who have enabled us to take the first step towards the introduction of a uniform system of public instruction. It is a step in the right direction, and I trust it will not be retrod. One of the gentlemen who has been most earnest in supporting our system has recently assured the public that success in this first experiment would not give him undue confidence, nor failure discourage him. It was wisely and bravely said; and supported by such a sentiment I am confident that all those who have really been in earnest in the matter will continue to persevere until the object of our common aspirations is fully and perfectly accomplished.

APPENDIX.

Chambers, Supreme Court, June 21, 1870.

Return of the written orders made and issued by the Judges in Chambers of the Supreme Court of Mauritius, from 1st January to 31st December, 1869.

No. 2,298. (Signed) JAMES J. BROWN,
Clerk to his Honour the Chief Judge.

Crime.—1869.

The Return annexed to this Report shows, in a tabular form, the crimes tried before the Supreme Court of Mauritius, from the year 1865 to 1869 inclusive.

The total number of cases and persons brought to the assizes in 1869 is shown to be less than in any of the four previous years. Thus:—

	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.
Number of cases - -	64	101	68	75	49
Number of persons - - -	131	236	133	152	101

The decrease in favour of 1869 is, however, attributable in a very slight degree, if at all, to an actual diminution in the commission of crime. The reduction is chiefly due to the operation of an Ordinance (No. 11, of 1869) which extended the jurisdiction of the District Courts in criminal matters, by allowing them finally to dispose of a number of offences which were formerly taken to the assizes, but which were seldom visited with a severer punishment than could have been inflicted by the Court below. I am not in possession of the necessary data to enable me to show that there has been an increase in the criminal business of the District Courts equivalent to the decrease in the trials of the Supreme Court; but the reason now assigned for that decrease is borne out by the consideration that it coincides with the anticipated effect of the Ordinance, and that the falling off is especially remarkable under the heads of wounds (generally) and larcenies, which offences are, more than any others, likely to be affected by the new legislation, while the average rate of crime is not sensibly changed as regards the remaining classes, in which the jurisdiction may be said to have been unaltered.

The amendments which have thus been introduced into the Criminal Procedure Law of the Colony have had so material a bearing on the statistics on which I am called upon to report, that a comparison of the year 1869 with the previous years can only be made on a few points; and I am therefore compelled to limit this review to observations made chiefly with reference to that year alone.

As regards the distribution of crime throughout the Colony, the town of Port Louis furnished a larger proportion of cases than in the preceding year:—

District.	1868.		1869.	
	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons.	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons.
Port Louis	27	48	25	36
Pamplemousses	10	23	3	4
Rivière du Rempart	2	2	2	5
Flacq	13	27	3	5
Grand Port	7	17	4	30
Savanne	3	3	3	3
Plaines Wilhems	3	13	4	7
Moka	10	19	5	11
Black River	—	—	—	—
	75	152	49	101

The nationality, or race of the offenders, is shown in the following table:—

Race, &c.	1868.	1869.
Arabs	3	—
Chinese	1	3
Creoles (descendants of ex-slave population)	27	16
Creoles	1	4
English	1	2
French (aliens)	2	—
Indians	117	76
	152	101

One person was sentenced to death for murder, but the punishment was commuted to imprisonment for twenty years.

The crimes of murder, manslaughter, and serious wounds, are invariably committed in Mauritius by persons of the Indian population, and the motives which lead to these criminal acts generally stand in the same relative proportion one to another.

The following table shows the causes or motives of the offences of this kind, committed during the years 1868 and 1869:—

Year.	Jealousy as to Women.		Quarrels.		Money.		Lynch Law on Thieves.		Gaudia, &c. Intoxication.	
	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.
1868	11	15	8	9	3	5	2	6	1	1
1869	8	8	3	6	3	3	2	8	2	4

Jealous revenge is the leading feature in a large majority of these crimes, and is the result of the coarse immorality of the females of this half-civilized Indian population, joined to the deplorable practice which exists among them of selling their female children to the highest bidder, and when the price has been paid, of withdrawing the girl in order to sell her again on the same system to a succession of men. The crimes attributed to the other causes do not call for any special remark, except it be those noted in column "Lynch Law on Thieves." These acts of violence are due to an unjustifiable want of confidence in the protection of the law. If an Indian is caught in the act of stealing in a camp, his countrymen on whom the larceny has been attempted often take the law into their own hands, and inflict summary punishment on the thief by beating him severely. These cases, when known, are taken up by the police with special care, and I am glad to say they are not so numerous as they were in former years.

For the first time during a considerable period, there were several cases of bigamy in 1869. They were all committed by women who had previously been lawfully married in Mauritius before an officer of the Civil Status, and had abandoned their husbands.

The number of cases of forgery in 1869 remained at the average of the preceding years. It is a remarkable and significant fact, that all these offences in 1869 were committed

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by creoles of colour of the lower class, who had barely received the first rudiments of education.

There was a considerable diminution in the number of cases of arson and of persons brought to trial for that offence in 1869, as compared with the corresponding figures in 1868.

1868.		1869.	
No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.
9	22	3	9

This diminution is more apparent on a comparison of the year 1869 with the previous eight years.

1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.
6	6	8	9	7	7	4	9	3

The reduction in the crime of this class may in some degree be due to the deterrent effect of the Ordinance No. 17, of 1868, which invested the police authorities with ampler powers of investigation into suspected cases of arson.

With one exception, the crimes brought to justice in 1869 were not accompanied by any exceptional circumstance worthy of record in this Report. The single case referred to was a burglary committed by 24 Indians, who started from their camp to a distant part of the Island, where, deliberately dividing themselves into bands, they simultaneously attacked three dwellings, which they plundered. Nineteen of these were convicted at the assizes.

(Signed) JULES L. COLIN,
Procureur and Advocate-General.

No. 167. *Port Louis Prisons.*

The following are the chief statistics of the Port Louis prisons for the year 1869:—

1. Number of prisoners remaining in prison on 31st December, 1868 - 529
Number of prisoners committed to prison during the year 1869 - 2,830

Total - - - - - - 3,359

Number of prisoners discharged from prison during the year 1869, 2,646.
Number of prisoners remaining on the prison books on 31st December, 1869, 713.

2. The following table shows the number of prisoners committed in 1868 and in 1869 by the Courts whose prisoners were received in the Port Louis prisons, as also the increase and the decrease in the committals on the comparison of these two years.

Year of the Committal to Prison.	By the Stipendiary Magistrate.	By the Police Magistrate.	District Magistrates.			Debtors.	Naval and Military Courts.	Remanded for Trial.	Total.
			Merchant Shipping Act.	Civil Side.	Criminal Side.				
In 1868 - -	57	1006	181	46	864	13	2	245	2414
„ 1869 - -	29	1736	88	35	756	7	—	179	2830
Increase - -	—	730	—	—	—	—	—	—	416
Decrease - -	28	—	93	11	108	6	2	66	—

3. The prisoners condemned by the Court of Assizes for felony during the year were in number 78.

For statistics in criminal cases which amount to felony, see chapter on Crime.

4. The following statement shows the great divisions of the world to which the prisoners committed belonged; and also the number of natives of each:—

EUROPE	United Kingdom	149	237
	Other countries	88	
ASIA	Bombay	103	1,932
	Madras	925	
	Bengal	854	
	Other countries	50	
AFRICA	Mauritius	530	623
	Other countries	93	
AMERICA	West Indies	20	38
	Other countries	18	
			2,830

5. The committals by the Stipendiary Magistrate to these prisons consisted of Europeans and female vagrants. During the year there were—

12 male European vagrants committed, and
17 Indian females, making a total of

—

29, or a decrease of 28 as compared with the committals in the year 1868.

6. The committals by the Police Magistrate during the last five years were as follows, viz.:—

In 1865 there were	2,720
„ 1866 „	2,479
„ 1867 „	1,518
„ 1868 „	1,006
„ 1869 „	1,736

or an increase as compared with the year 1868, of 730.

This increase is to be attributed to contraventions by the Indian population of the new Labour Law, No. 31, of 1868.

7. The offences under the Merchant Shipping Act

In 1865 were	90
„ 1866 „	72
„ 1867 „	73
„ 1868 „	181
„ 1869 „	88

or a decrease, as compared with 1868, of 93.

8. The number of fraudulent debtors committed during the year is 35, or a decrease of 11 as compared with the year 1868.

The following is a comparison of the committals of this class during the last five years:—

In 1865 there were	50
„ 1866 „	57
„ 1867 „	46
„ 1868 „	46
„ 1869 „	35

9. The following is a table of the committals by the District Magistrates on the criminal side:—

Offence.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.
Larceny	1232	1572	742	549	494
Assault	210	174	92	88	86
Licence contravention	14	11	13	5	3
In possession of gaudia	44	29	12	10	27
Receiving stolen property	15	86	21	30	40
Adultery	7	8	3	—	1
Enticing away and harbouring married women	—	6	1	3	1
Other offences	187	134	154	179	104
	1709	2020	1038	864	756

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The number of committals from this source has greatly decreased during the last (5) five years. In 1865 the committals were 1,709, whilst in 1869 they were only 756, or considerably fewer than one-half.

10. The proportions of larcenies to the total committals by the District Magistrates was 65·34 per cent., or an increase as compared with the proportion in 1868 of 1·80. The following is the proportion of larcenies to total committals from this source during the last five years:—

In 1865 the percentage was	- -	72·08
„ 1866 „	- -	77·82
„ 1867 „	- -	71·38
„ 1868 „	- -	63·54
„ 1869 „	- -	65·34

In reference to this and paragraph 9 it may be remarked, that though the number of prisoners committed by the District Magistrate has decreased materially for some years, yet the proportion of larcenies to total committals still remain nearly at the same high figure each year.

11. Of committals for debt, the following is a comparative statement for the last five years:—

In 1865 they were	- - -	23
„ 1866 „	- - - -	18
„ 1867 „	- - -	17
„ 1868 „	- - - -	13
„ 1869 „	- - -	7

Perhaps the diminution here may be attributed to the anticipation by creditors of the passing of the Ordinance abolishing imprisonment for debt, which ultimately was passed, and came into force on the last quarter of the year.

12. There were no military or naval prisoners committed to prison during 1869 under sentences of courts martial.

13. The following is a statement of untried prisoners committed to the House of Detention since the year 1865 inclusive:—

In 1865 it was	- - -	260
„ 1866 „	- - - -	409
„ 1867 „	- - -	125
„ 1868 „	- - - -	245
„ 1869 „	- - -	179

being a decrease in 1869 of 66, as compared with the committals of 1868.

14. The highest number locked up in the prison on any one night during the year 1869 was 575, and the lowest was 356.

These numbers do not include the prisoners in hospital and those nightly locked up in the dormitory above it.

15. The nightly average number of prisoners on the *strength* * of the prison locked up since 1865, is as follows:—

In 1865 it was	- - -	586
„ 1866 „	- - - -	727
„ 1867 „	- - -	637
„ 1868 „	- - - -	491
„ 1869 „	- - -	676

These averages do not include the number at Flat Island. The average lock-up there was as follows:—

In 1865 it was	- - -	46
„ 1866 „	- - - -	58
„ 1867 „	- - -	52
„ 1868 „	- - - -	193
„ 1869 „	- - -	30

* *i.e.* the total number of Port Louis prisoners locked up in the principal prison, hospital, dormitory, and elsewhere.

16. The total admission to hospital for serious cases of sickness during the year was 899, *i. e.*—

To the Prisoners' Hospital - -	881 (males).
„ Civil Hospital - - -	18 (females).

The number sent there in 1868 was 1,195, showing a decrease of 296 in the year under report. This fact would seem to indicate an improvement in the sanitary condition of the prison.

17. The deaths in 1869 were:—

In Prisoners' Hospital - - -	26
„ Civil ditto - - - - -	3
At Flat Island - - - -	1
Total - - - -	30

18. The following is a statement of the death rate per cent. per annum of the whole strength of the prisoners on the prison-books, viz.:—

In 1865 it was - - -	3·67
„ 1866 „ - - - -	3·86
„ 1867 „ - - -	11·03
„ 1868 „ - - - -	4·24
„ 1869 „ - - - -	4·00

These annual averages include the prisoners who died at Flat Island during these years.

19. The following is a statement of each class of prisoners who died during the year, including the deaths at Flat Island:—

Class.	E.	C.	I.	Total.
Felons - - -	—	—	14	14
Misdemeanants - - -	—	1	6	7
Police Court - - -	1	—	4	5
Vagrants - - -	—	—	2	2
Untried - - -	—	1	1	2
Total - - -	1	2	27	30

And the subjoined the periods of imprisonment undergone previous to their being sent to hospital:—

Sent on the day of admission to prison - - - -	1
„ within 14 days after admission - - - -	4
„ after more than 14 days and less than 1 month - -	6
„ „ 1 month „ 3 months - -	2
„ „ 3 months „ 6 „ - -	3
„ „ 6 „ „ 12 „ - - -	3
„ after more than 1 year in prison - - - -	11

20. One prisoner, who was accidentally drowned while employed in the harbour, is not included in the above accounts of deaths among the prisoners.

21. The punishments for prison offences are shown in the following statement: they were, curtailing rations, solitary confinement, wearing chains, and flogging.

	Minor Offences.	Flogging.
In 1865 there were - - -	2,012	51
„ 1866 „ - -	4,236	6
„ 1867 „ - - -	3,144	12
„ 1868 „ - - -	1,315	43
„ 1869 „ - - -	3,349	40

The number of punishments for breaches of prison discipline is much higher in 1869 than in the preceding year, which is accounted for by the fact of about 200 felons, which were located at Flat Island, where it was impracticable to carry out a strict discipline during the

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22. There were 39 escapes from out-door working parties, and one from the Prisoners' Hospital during the year.

The following is an annual statement of escapes since 1865, viz.:—

In 1865	77
„ 1866	27
„ 1867	44
„ 1868	27
„ 1869	40

The prisoner who escaped from the Prisoners' Hospital, when on the point of being recaptured by the police, committed suicide by shooting himself through the head.

23. The following statement shows the number of escaped prisoners recaptured and brought back to prison annually since 1865:—

In 1865	55
„ 1866	19
„ 1867	36
„ 1868	30
„ 1869	33

24. The following table (p. 69) is a list of prisoners who were granted by his Excellency the Governor remission of a portion of their sentences during the year.

25. No prisoners were executed during the year 1869.

26. During the year, 369 fines, amounting to 333*l.* 11*s.*, were received at the prisons on account of the Government and of the Municipality.

27. The number of visits to condemned prisoners was 2,004, and of visitors, 3,288.

28. The following is a statement of the nature and the amount received for remunerative labour performed by prisoners in prison during the year, and also the estimated value of the labour of prisoners employed at public works, but for which cash payments are not received:—

1. Labour for which cash is received at the prison:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For tailors' work	48	2	3
„ stone-breaking	12	12	0
„ shoemaking	62	17	11½
„ net-making	15	8	8
„ oakum-picking	11	2	5¼
„ basket and chair-making and repairing	15	15	9½
„ carpentering	2	13	4
„ mattress making	0	15	6
„ mat-making	0	12	0
„ tin-smiths	0	6	5
Total cash received	£170	6	6¼

2. Labour supplied to public departments for which payment is not made:—

33,376 days' labour for the Surveyor-General's Department, valued at 6*d.* per diem	834	8	0
30 days' labour to Internal Revenue Department, valued at 6*d.* per diem	0	15	0
19,698 days' labour for the Port Department, valued at 6*d.* per diem	492	9	0
Carried forward		£1,327	12	0

1st.—FELONS WHO WERE GRANTED REMISSION OF THEIR SENTENCES DURING THE YEAR 1869.

Prison No.	Name.	Country.	Date of Sentence.	Crime.	Fine. £ s. d.	Sentence. Yrs. Mon. Days.	Date of Discharge.	Remarks.
65	Ramsamy Ranganaiken	Madras	30 Nov., 1860	Larceny at night, with violence	—	20 0 0	20 Feb., 1869	
268	Tandapah	„	8 June, 1864	„ „	—	15 0 0	29 June, 1869	
282	Boolakee	Calcutta	16 June 1864	Arson	—	7 0 0	18 Sept., 1869	
178	Babojee	Bombay	30 Nov., 1858	Attempt to murder	—	15 0 0	23 Jan., 1869	
32	Cundasamy	Madras	15 Sept., 1864	Attempt to commit larceny, with violence at night	—	7 0 0	18 Sept., 1869	
80	Raphael Montia	Mauritius	4 June, 1866	Swindling	30 0 0	4 0 0	22 Sept., 1869	
58	Sineevassen	Madras	10 Sept., 1862	Manslaughter	—	10 0 0	20 Feb., 1869	
344	Mareesamy	„	13 June, 1866	Embezzlement	—	3 0 0	11 March, 1869	
256	Ackbarally	Calcutta	4 & 22 Dec., 1865	Having stolen property in his possession	—	4 0 0	10 July, 1869	
358	Anthonimootoo	Madras	22 June, 1866	Wounds and blows	10 0 0	2 0 0	31 Dec., 1869	
95	Lutchmanee	Calcutta	21 March, 1854	Murder	—	20 0 0	2 July, 1869	
127	Abdool	Mauritius	24 Sept., 1867	Attempt on chastity	—	2 0 0	1 Aug., 1869	
478	Theodore Fin	„	5 Oct., 1868	Larceny	—	1 0 0	5 June, 1869	
	Basmotty (woman)	Calcutta	6 April, 1869	Bigamy	—	0 18 0	3 Nov., 1869	
	Pooleah „	„	6 April, 1869	Aiding and abetting the bigamy	—	1 0 0	3 Nov., 1869	

2nd.—MISDEMEANANTS WHO WERE GRANTED REMISSION OF THEIR SENTENCES DURING THE YEAR 1869.

Prison No.	Name.	Country.	Date of Sentence.	Crime.	Fine. £ s. d.	Sentence. Yrs. Mon. Days.	Date of Discharge.	Remarks.
—	Beemoo (woman)	Calcutta	30 Jan., 1869	In possession of gaudia	—	0 6 0	22 May, 1869	
—	Damish	„	19 Nov., 1869	In possession of stolen melasse	—	—	27 Nov., 1869	

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward				1,327	12	0

3. New works done in the prison for the public, with the estimated value:—

3,171 shirts, at 2*d.*	26	8	6			
1,749 pairs of trowsers, at 3*d.*	21	17	3			
446 canvas caps, at 1*d.*	3	18	10			
158 pairs of boots, at 2*s.* 6*d.*	19	15	0			
236 coffins, at 1*s.*	11	16	0			
580 tin cans, at 3*d.*	7	5	0			
360 canvas belts, at 1*d.*	1	10	0			
122 cane brooms, at 1*d.*	0	10	2			
50 tin can covers, at 1½*d.*	0	6	3			
5,800 jobman's tin badges, at 1*d.*	24	3	4			
3,200 straps with buckles, at 1*d.*	13	6	8			
269 pillow-cases, at 2*d.*	2	4	10			
6 leathers for leg-irons, at 1*d.*	0	0	6			
1 tin boiler, at 6*d.*	0	0	6			
150 tin mugs, at 2*d.*	1	5	0			
1 stove-pipe, at 6*d.*	0	0	6			
2 wooden trays, at 4*d.*	0	0	8			
2 tin dishes, at 4*d.*	0	0	8			
143 loads of Macadam, at 1*s.*	7	3	0			
51 cane baskets, at 2*d.*	0	8	6			
6 mattresses, at 6*d.*	0	3	0			
1 tin ration-measure, at 2*d.*	0	0	2			
10 wooden ration-tubs, at 2*d.*	0	1	8			
1 tin lamp-burner, at 3*d.*	0	0	3			
				142	6	3

Repairs:—

123 pairs of boots, at 1*s.*	6	3	0			
7,720 shirts, at 1*d.*	33	3	4			
6,675 pairs of trowsers, at 1*d.*	27	16	3			
2,650 canvas caps, at ½*d.*	5	10	5			
8,008 articles marked, at ½*d.*	16	13	8			
2,078 tin cans, at 1*d.*	8	13	2			
1 canvas chair, at 6*d.*	0	0	6			
1 handcuff pinch, at 2*d.*	0	0	2			
3 axe-handles, at 2*d.*	0	0	6			
20 hospital coats altered, at 6*d.*	0	10	0			
5 guard's coats fitted, at 6*d.*	0	2	6			
8 guard's trowsers, at 6*d.*	0	4	0			
2 lamps, at 1*d.*	0	0	2			
20 pairs hospital trowsers altered, at 4*d.*	0	6	8			
100 hospital gowns altered, at 6*d.*	2	10	0			
21 mattresses, at 2*d.*	0	3	6			
100 shirts, hospital, at 3*d.*	1	5	0			
112 gowns, hospital, at 3*d.*	1	8	0			
1 pot, iron, at 6*d.*	0	0	6			
2 saucepans, at 2*d.*	0	0	4			
1 kettle, at 2*d.*	0	0	2			
				104	11	10
Total value of labour, exclusive of that expended in cleaning, cooking, &c.				1,574	10	1

29. The following is a comparative statement of collections for labour of male prisoners and handicrafts, &c., inside the prison, since 1865, inclusive:—

Nature of Work.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tailors	3 14 4	27 17 3	143 5 11	81 3 1	48 2 3
Stone breakers	65 3 0	65 15 10	134 13 4	45 6 5	12 12 0
Shoemakers	34 19 5	88 4 11	118 8 11	94 4 11	62 17 11½
Net makers	38 13 0¾	35 6 8¾	48 11 10¾	23 17 5	15 8 8
Oakum picking	104 0 0	45 12 0	24 15 0	61 1 5¾	11 2 5¼
Basket making and rattaning chairs	1 0 6	6 14 6	7 12 1	7 17 3	15 15 9½
Carpenters	0 4 8	3 10 2	2 17 4	21 6 2	2 13 4
Mattress making	—	2 7 8	2 2 9	5 16 4	0 15 6
Mat making	5 14 6	2 12 4	1 12 10	6 14 6	0 12 0
Tin-smith	—	0 5 8	0 5 7	0 3 9	0 6 5

30. The reimbursements in cash, from all sources, in aid of the expenses incurred by Government for the establishment, amount to 182*l.* 10*s.* 2¾*d.*

31. The following table shows the number of days on which the prisoners were employed on the different kinds of labour, and also those not employed at labour, with the reasons for such non-employment:—

Surveyor-General's Department	33,370
Ditto	6
Port Department	19,698
Internal Revenue Department	30
Employed in channel leading to Caudan Basin	2,100
Cleaning Supreme Court	918
Sweepers	8,917
Indoor attendants	1,104
Servants to prison officers	3,012
Good-conduct prisoners	303
Inside doorkeepers	586
Cooks and helpers	2,064
Washing prison clothing	1,991
Making, mending, and marking ditto	8,883
Tin-smith	481
Carpenter	351
Barber	306
Shoemakers	4,490
Filling carts and carrying stones	18
Shot-drill and walking exercise	59,931
Making baskets and brooms	23
Washing hospital clothing	401
Cleaning rice	1,120
Making nets	3,006
Picking oakum	4,442
Tailors	1,915
Breaking Macadam	3,908
Mattress making	114
Rattaning chairs, &c.	928
Mat making	144
Held in readiness for other prisons	63
Sentenced not to labour	603
In solitary confinement	1,557
Sick, and unfit to work	6,161
Sundays and holidays	36,419
Untried prisoners	7,087
Debtors	1,077
Total	217,527
Juveniles	384
Females	7,842
Total	225,753

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32. There were 239 females committed during the year. The highest number locked up was 47. The lowest, 16.

The sleeping accommodation in the females' ward is sufficient only for 30 prisoners.

In conclusion I can state that efficiency in the establishment has been preserved throughout the year, and that the officers have satisfactorily performed their duty.

(Signed) JULES L. COLIN,
Procureur-General.

7th June, 1870.

LEGISLATION, 1869.

During the year 1869 many important enactments were passed by the Council of Government of Mauritius, and of these the principal was a law for improving the sanitary condition of the chief town of the Colony, viz. :—

Ordinance No. 6, of 1869, entituled "An Ordinance to regulate the building and the improvement of premises within the town of Port Louis."

The legislation which formerly regulated the construction of dwellings in Port Louis may be said to have aimed solely at the prevention of conflagrations, by requiring that the materials of which houses were built should under certain circumstances be of an incombustible nature; while the laws on public health, especially as to the cleanliness and overcrowding of premises, were less explicit than could have been desired. As a consequence of this state of the law the town became in course of time a dense agglomeration of low unventilated buildings, to which were attached small yards of insufficient size for the domestic purposes of the inhabitants, and as the local situation of the town is unfavourable to its areal extension, the constantly increasing population were lodged or rather packed in these dwellings in numbers altogether disproportionate to the space available. The most crowded parts of the town were of course occupied by the poorer classes, consisting of ex-apprentices, Malagash, Chinese, Arabs, and Indians, whose abhorrence of cleanliness is insurmountable, and in almost every street there existed some establishment in which the trade or business carried on could not be otherwise than prejudicial to public health when exercised in the heart of a populous city. Unfortunately the rapid growth of these evils remained unchecked by any vigorous action on the part of the Board (a section of the Municipal Corporation) entrusted with the sanitary administration of the town, for that body considered their inactivity as justified by the insufficiency of the law which they alleged had not conferred upon them power to compel the townspeople to adopt proper measures for preserving the public health of the locality under their jurisdiction.

Such was the unsatisfactory condition of Port Louis when the dreadful fever epidemic broke loose upon the Colony and fastened upon the town with fatal tenacity. That terrible visitation carried off in 1867, 22,000 souls in the town, and was followed by the migration to the rural districts of the wealthier classes, who were now agreed to consider Port Louis as a hot-bed of pestilence.

The Ordinance at present under review was introduced, as already mentioned, to enforce the observance of necessary sanitary measures in Port Louis; it specially aims at the sanitary improvement of private premises by construction, drainage, limitation in the number of inmates, and the removal from the centre of the town of noxious trades; the law has received Her Majesty's approval, and is effecting slowly but surely the sanitary reforms which have been so long needed in the town of Port Louis.

Ordinance No 7, of 1869, entituled "An Ordinance to provide for the Election upon vacancies of Municipal Councillors to the Municipal Corporation of the town of Port Louis."

While the above-noticed Ordinance, No. 6, was being discussed by the Legislature, an attempt was made by the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis to obtain from the Council the abolition of the right of control which by the existing law the General Board of Health exercises over the Corporation in its capacity of Local Board of Health of the town, but the Council of Government rejected the proposition. Having thus failed in their endeavours to withdraw from the supervision of the General Board of Health, the Municipal Corporation now declared their dignity and privileges infringed by Art. 147 et seq. of the Ordinance No. 6, which renders the decisions of the Corporation under that law liable to review by a Board of Appeal; and again the Council of Government resolved that the Corporation should not be relieved from that control.

On learning this decision ten out of the eighteen Municipal Councillors sent in their resignation, thus leaving in office a number Councillors insufficient to form the quorum by whom the steps indicated by law for the filling up of vacancies could be taken.

This attempt to paralyze the administration of the town resulted in the passing of the Ordinance No. 7 to enable the Mayor to dispense with a quorum in such cases.

The Councillors who had resigned allowed themselves to be re-elected, and were somewhat disappointed at their unsuccessful effort to dictate to the Government.

Ordinance No. 9 of 1869, entituled "An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 6 of 1869," entituled "An Ordinance to regulate the building and the improvement of premises within the town of Port Louis."

While the attention of the public was still occupied with the circumstances above related in connection with the recent resignation of the Municipal Councillors, a petition was addressed to the Government to amend the constitution of the Board of Appeal which had been created by the Ordinance No. 6 of 1869. The objections urged by the petitioners to the existing composition of the Board of Appeal were declared by the Council of Government to be unsustainable, and further consideration of the matter was about to be dismissed; but the Substitute of the Procureur and Advocate-General and the Senior District Magistrate of Port Louis having earnestly pressed upon the Council to relieve them of the duties incumbent upon them as members of the Board, the Council consented to remodel that tribunal, and the Ordinance No. 9 of 1869 was passed accordingly.

Ordinance No. 23 of 1869, entituled "An Ordinance for appointing an additional Magistrate in and for the district of Port Louis, and in case of need, for the other districts of the Colony."

The increased attention which had been given to the enforcement of the Public Health laws since the fever epidemic of 1867 had resulted in the continued detection of so large a number of offences of a sanitary class, that the three junior Courts of the town were unable to dispose, concurrently with their ordinary business, of the numerous cases of this nature which were brought before them, and it was found necessary to create a special tribunal for the trial of these contraventions. With this view a law (Ordinance 6 of 1868) was introduced to give jurisdiction to the Deputy Mayor to try sanitary offences detected in Port Louis, but the scheme was abandoned after an experiment of a few months, during which it had given general dissatisfaction. In the mean time increased energy had been brought to bear upon the enforcement of sanitary measures by the passing of the Ordinance No. 6 of 1869, first mentioned in this Report, and the necessity of creating a permanent tribunal for the hearing of sanitary offences became apparent. On the matter coming before the Council of Government, that Board considered that the cost of the new Court should be defrayed out of the general revenue of the Colony, and not by the Municipal Corporation, and that the new magistrateship should be constituted so as to render the services of the magistrate available in case of need in any of the district Courts throughout the Colony.

Ordinance No. 11 of 1869, entituled "An Ordinance to extend the Jurisdiction of District Courts in Criminal matters."

The distribution of the criminal business of the Courts of justice in Mauritius may be briefly described as follows:—

The District Courts have jurisdiction to dispose finally (with some exceptions) of criminal charges wherein the punishment to be awarded does not exceed one year's imprisonment, or a fine of 50*l.*; these Courts also make a preliminary inquiry into all cases wherein the punishment is beyond their jurisdiction, and these latter cases are tried before the Court of Assizes.

Besides the limitation above noticed, the organic law of the District Courts expressly excluded from their jurisdiction certain specified classes of offences which were considered to be of too serious a nature to be left to the disposal of a minor Court. Unfortunately the legislation would seem to have followed too closely the broad classifications of the Penal Code of the Colony, and experience has shown that there were many offences thus excluded from the final jurisdiction of the magistrate which were not of so crimiual a character as to require the solemn interference of a Court of Assizes.

These evils have been remedied by the Ordinance No. 11 of 1869, which indicates by a more suitable classification the offences which are beyond the cognizance of the District Courts of the Colony.

MAURITIUS. Ordinance No. 2 of 1869, entituled "An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the laws of Mauritius relative to Stamp Duties, and to provide for the collection of fees, direct taxes, and of duties on licences by means of stamps."

The organic law of the Colony which provided for the levying of a portion of the revenue by means of stamps on documents had been borrowed in 1803 from the French law on the subject. It established a tax (1st) graduated according to the size of the paper employed, and (2nd) dependent on the sum specified in commercial writings. From time to time the Colonial Legislature had made amendments on that law chiefly to authorize the raising of a fixed stamp duty in certain cases, but no steps had been taken to render effective the dispositions for enforcing compliance with the law which it had long been notorious was daily eluded with impunity.

At a meeting of the Council of Government in November, 1868, it was decided that a sum of 2,000*l.* in addition to the existing revenue should be levied annually by means of stamps, and advantage was taken of this opportunity to consolidate into one Ordinance the several local laws on stamps to introduce the modifications which experience had shown to be necessary, and to assimilate in so far as practicable the Colonial Law to the Stamp Law of England.

At the outset the law was met by an organized opposition, which was chiefly caused by the precautions which had been taken to render its provisions really effective, but I am happy to report that no such adverse feeling now exists, and that the Ordinance No. 2 of 1869 continues to work most satisfactorily.

Ordinance No. 16 of 1869, entituled "An Ordinance to amend the Law relative to Imprisonment for Debt."

The law of the Colony had always recognized under certain restrictions, which were however ineffectual to prevent an abuse of the system, the discretionary power of a judgment creditor to deprive his debtor of liberty. The right thus vested in creditors had long been viewed with marked repugnance by all classes of the community, and every opportunity was taken advantage of by the press, the bar, and the members of the commercial class to attack a principle from which no good arose, but under cover of which much real oppression and cruelty was practised. The popular feeling on the subject leaned strongly to the total abolition of imprisonment for debt, but the introduction of so sweeping a measure would have operated prejudicially and unjustly to commercial interests,—thus a mean course was adopted by the Legislature by the introduction of the Ordinance No. 16 of 1869, which satisfied the wishes of all parties by abolishing the discretionary and abusive power formerly vested in judgment creditors, and by extending the rights of the Courts in cases of civil fraud to enforce the execution of their judgments by the incarceration of the fraudulent debtor. The law was received by the public with unusual enthusiasm.

Ordinance No. 17 of 1869, entituled "An Ordinance for regulating the Practice of Pharmacy and the Sale of Poisons."

The principal law of the Colony which regulated the preparation and sale of medicines and poisons, and the admission of persons to the practice of pharmacy was dated so far back as 1803, and it was ill adapted to the present circumstances of the Colony. The rights and privileges of chemists and druggists were badly defined and were invaded with impunity by general dealers, while the pupils of pharmacists were unable to obtain in Mauritius the diplomas necessary for the exercise of the calling, because the Board of Examiners established by the old law had ceased to exist. The consideration of a complete revision of the laws on the subject had been from time to time postponed by the Legislature, whose attention was occupied with more important business, but the establishment of numerous dispensaries throughout the Colony consequent on the prevalence of fever, and the pressing demand for competent persons to distribute the medicines there, lent additional importance and urgency to the contemplated amendments, and resulted in passing of the Ordinance No. 17 of 1869.

Ordinance No. 8 of 1869, entituled "An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the Laws on Game."

The game laws of the Colony in force previous to the passing of this Ordinance provided for the cessation of hunting and shooting during a specified close season, for game licenses, and for the places where shooting was prohibited, but these laws did not contain proper dispositions for the protection of game, and consequently there were numbers of poachers on Crown lands and private estates, who wantonly destroyed the game throughout the year.

In April, 1868, a public petition from the most influential planters was presented to Government praying for a revision of the game laws, and was followed by the passing of the present Ordinance, which contains all the prior legislation on the subject with more detailed and more stringent provisions to secure obedience to the law. It was warmly welcomed by the landowners, and is said by them to have effectually stayed the evils which necessitated its introduction.

Ordinance No. 12 of 1869, entituled "An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Promissory Oaths."

With the exception of the members of the Council of Government and a few judicial officers who were required to take an oath of office before entering upon the duties of their appointment, the greater number of the public officers whose functions were of a nature to warrant the formal enunciation of a solemn promise faithfully to fulfil the duties of their charge, were accustomed to take an oath of office prescribed solely by local usage.

By Despatch dated 8th May, 1869, the Secretary of State invited the Colonial Government to take steps for the adoption of certain forms of oaths therewith forwarded in order that all such forms should as far as possible be alike throughout Her Majesty's Colonies, and an Ordinance was introduced to carry out those instructions. Advantage was taken of the opportunity to repeal all former provisions concerning promissory oaths, and to indicate precisely on the model of the Statutes 30 and 31 Vict., c. 75, and 31 and 32 Vict., c. 72, the persons who should take such oath and what oaths should be taken by them.

Ordinance No. 4 of 1869, entituled "An Ordinance for the more effectual Prevention of Cruelty to Animals."

With the exception of a few regulations passed by the Municipal Corporation and limited in their effect to the town of Port Louis, the law of the Colony formerly contained no dispositions for the prevention of cruelty to animals, thus in the rural districts of the Island there existed no means of repressing the ill treatment to which animals in those localities were subjected. The Ordinance above quoted was introduced to extend to the whole Colony a set of provisions based on the English law for the prevention of the cruel and improper treatment of animals.

Ordinance No. 3 of 1869, entituled "An Ordinance to provide Rules with respect to Boats and Life-buoys in British sailing ships sailing from Mauritius."

Her Majesty's Consul at Madagascar and the civil Commissioner at Seychelles had on divers occasions solicited the attention of the Government of Mauritius to the circumstance that ships leaving Mauritius for those places were not provided with the number of boats and life-buoys requisite for the safety of the crews or passengers. The law officers of the Crown were of opinion, however, that the sections of the Merchant Shipping Act of 1854, which regulate the matter, did not apply to those vessels, and in this view the Board of Trade concurred. As it was of importance that the law of the Colony should render obligatory the furnishing of proper means of safety for the crews and passengers of vessels leaving the Island, the Ordinance No. 3 of 1869 was passed, embodying the sections of Merchant Shipping Act above mentioned.

Ordinance No. 13 of 1869, entituled "An Ordinance to provide for the Relief of Distressed Colonial Seamen."

This Ordinance was passed in compliance with instructions received from the Secretary of State by Despatch dated 1st May, 1869, and for the purpose of rendering the Colonial Treasury liable for expenses incurred in respect of seamen belonging to colonial vessels who become distressed abroad, these expenses having formerly been borne by the Board of Trade.

Ordinance No. 5 of 1869, entituled "An Ordinance to amend the Law regarding Punishments in certain cases of Arson"

The crime of wilfully setting fire to a building serving as a residence was made punishable by the Article 346 of the Penal Code of the Colony by death or transportation for life; and by a subsequent law, transportation having been abolished, the Judges were empowered to award twenty years' imprisonment in lieu of transportation for life. There existed a difference between the wording of the French and the English texts of this article of the Penal Code which is not needful to explain here at length, but the Judges held

MAURITIUS. that they were bound to follow the French text, and that they could not award for the crime of arson lighter sentences than that of twenty years' imprisonment. The consequence of this decision soon became apparent in the Assize Court, where juries became most unwilling to find a verdict of guilty on account of the disproportionate punishment which they were aware would follow their decision. The Ordinance above mentioned was passed to reduce the minimum punishment in cases of arson to four years.

Ordinance No. 22, of 1869, entituled "An Ordinance to prevent the Illegal Practice of Medicine and Surgery."

The organic law of this Colony concerning the practice of medical men was found to be so deficient in the means of enforcing its provisions, that persons who held no diplomas and who offered to the public no guarantee of capacity were in the habit of openly selling with impunity their quack medicines to the ignorant and poorer classes, by whom their impositions and extortions were seldom divulged; an instance of more than usual importance of the treatment of a patient by one of these charlatans attracted the attention of the Government, and an Ordinance was introduced to fill up the hiatus of the original law.

Ordinance No. 15, of 1869, intituled "An Ordinance to authorize Compensation to be made to public Contractors, on account of Increase of Customs or other Duties."

This law was introduced to enable the Governor of the Colony to grant a drawback to public contractors, when the customs or other duties existing upon the goods which they have bound themselves to supply at certain prices, are augmented after the date of the contracts.

(Signed) JULES L. COLIN,
Procureur-General.

1st July, 1870.

CIVIL COMMISSIONER, SEYCHELLES, to GOVERNOR.

Civil Commissioner's Office, Seychelles, February 11, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the annual returns required for the Blue Book.

2. Your Excellency may be assured that, wherever it has been practicable to obtain correct information, the detailed statements have been accurately filled up.

3. Without actually taking a census, but by sending trustworthy persons round this and some of the most largely populated Islands, I have ascertained the total population to be about 12,836, of which there are Africans, 2,396.

4. The births during the past year amount to - - - 377
The deaths. - - - - - - - 286
Marriages - - - - - - - 43

5. The total exports to - - - - - - - £23,469
„ imports to - - - - - - £29,751

6. The details of revenue collected at Seychelles - - - £4,322 2 6½
The expenditure at Seychelles - - - - £5,797 6 6

7. To the revenue may be fairly added the amount of duties paid in Mauritius on goods consumed at Seychelles, estimated as per account rendered, 1,771*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

8. The trade in cocoanut oil is steadily increasing; fresh plantations are being laid out, and others coming into bearing. The quantity exported is 63,566 velts, or 127,112 gallons, at a value here of 15,889*l.*

9. The rum duties have decreased since last year, owing to a large stock being in the hands of the merchants at the close of the year 1868, on which they at once paid duties rather than remove it to the general warehouse from their stores.

10. Some attention is being paid to the cultivation of tobacco, of which 55,000 lbs. have been raised, and 9,973 lbs. exported to Mauritius.

11. There have been arrivals of vessels during the past year, and as many departures, of which there were—

English men-of-war - - - -	6
French „ - - - -	20
French mail-steamers - - -	21
English merchant-ships - - - -	1
French „ - - - -	6
American whalers - - -	13
Colonial and other vessels - - -	20

12. There is an absence of all serious crime—the number of prisoners small, and the people seem generally happy and contented.

13. The health of the inhabitants has been generally good, but the hospital, a handsome building, and what would be a credit to the town, is falling to decay for want of being placed under proper management, and from the Local Board of Health not having sufficient funds to keep up an efficient staff; with proper arrangements it might be made of great service, not only to the inhabitants, but to the crews of Her Majesty's ships and other vessels calling at the Port.

14. Owing to the number of aged poor unable to work, a well-arranged poor-relief fund is much needed; in fact it is imperative that one be shortly established.

15. A Vagabond Act, much the same as that in force at Mauritius, is indispensable, to ensure those Africans whose period of service has expired, and others preferring to steal rather than work, being obliged to labour.

16. There being a considerable number of African children, a system of education is most desirable, and I venture to think there is a large field for missionary labour.

17. The road towards the south end of the Island is progressing steadily, and it is my intention, subject to your Excellency's approval, to commence a bridle road across the Island, from a place about two miles from the town, much needed by the inhabitants the other side, who have to travel a narrow and very rough road at present, or are obliged to go quite round one end of the Island in boats, to reach Victoria.

18. Having so recently arrived in the dependency, my local experience is but small; I therefore conclude my remarks. But I trust at the close of the present year I may be enabled to give a good account of the growing prosperity of the dependency, and by my increased experience be justified in speaking more confidently of its prospects and resources.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. H. FRANKLYN,
Civil Commissioner.

His Excellency Sir Henry Barkly, K.C.B.,
Governor, Mauritius,
&c. &c. &c.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

No. 5.

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir HARRY ST. GEORGE ORD, C.B., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 21.)

MY LORD, Government House, Singapore, January 31, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Straits Settlements for the year 1869. I also enclose a Report on Penang by Colonel Anson, and on Malacca by Captain Shaw, Lieutenant-Governors of those Settlements.

2. I regret the delay there has been in forwarding this document; it appears to have been mainly due to the changes which have taken place in the Colonial Secretary's department during the past year, but I am informed, and have reason to hope, that in future it will be transmitted with due punctuality.

Taxes, Fees, &c.

There has been no alteration in these sources of revenue during the year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The increase of revenue over that of 1868 is a little over $11,000, and of expenditure $43,000. There is nothing in these differences (reasons for which are given in detail in the returns) to call for particular comment.

From the comparative statement of the estimates with the actual revenue and expenditure, it will be seen that the actual revenue was within $7,000 of what it was estimated at, which on $1,200,000 is a little more than half per cent., a result which is creditable to the

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Auditor-General, by whom the estimates were framed. The actual expenditure was about 10 per cent. less than was estimated.

Public Debt.

As I have before remarked there has never been, strictly speaking, a public debt of the Colony. Under an apprehension that the revenue might not suffice to meet all demands made upon it in the first year or two of the existence of the Colony, the Government was authorized to borrow a sum not exceeding $200,000 from the unappropriated deposits in the Supreme Court, paying interest at 4 and 5 per cent. A portion only of this sum was, however, taken up, and it was replaced almost immediately, the current revenue being found amply sufficient to provide for all the requirements of the settlements.

Public Works.

There has been an excess on the expenditure under this head over that of last year, caused chiefly by the larger amount appropriated for the building of the Government House. Considerable sums were, however, set apart for other important works, the execution of which could not in all cases be carried out, and there has been consequently a saving of about $18,000 on the estimates for these services.

Legislation.

Nineteen Ordinances were passed during the year, most of which were required to amend defects in the existing law. The more important measures are those which relate to the preservation of the peace and the suppression of dangerous societies.

Coins.

Some inconvenience has been experienced from the want of a sufficient quantity of small silver and copper coins for circulation in the Settlements. The abolition of the Mint at Hong Kong has removed the source from which the former was supplied, and it will be necessary before long to make arrangements for procuring it elsewhere. The Indian Government has, with much consideration, offered to place at our disposal a large supply of small copper money which it had coined for the use of the Settlements. When this is expended, supplies will have to be obtained periodically from India or from home.

Imports and Exports.

The following Table shows the imports and exports of the three Settlements for the years 1868 and 1869.

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1868.	1869.	1868.	1869.
	$	$	$	$
Singapore - -	31,579,926	31,961,941	26,670,989	26,982,200
Penang - - -	8,259,038	9,472,240	9,629,475	11,372,923
Malacca - -	2,280,744	2,552,041	1,693,392	2,228,199
Total - -	42,119,708	43,986,222	37,993,856	40,583,322

It will be seen that at Singapore the increase over last year in both imports and exports has been but slight, about $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

At Penang the increase in the value of imports has been about 14 per cent., and of exports about 17 per cent.

At Malacca there has been an increase of imports of about 10 per cent., and in its exports an extraordinary increase of upwards of 31 per cent.

As the imports of Singapore represent nearly three-fourths of the whole imports of the Settlements, and its exports about two-thirds, the total increase on the imports of the Settlements is reduced to about $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and that on their exports to about 7 per cent.

These results show that the trade of Penang, as I pointed out in my Report on the Blue Book of last year, is continuing to improve at a greater rate than that of Singapore, and gives support to the belief which I then expressed that it will eventually attain far larger proportions.

The trade of Malacca which has hitherto shown a steady annual increase, has this year taken a sudden and very large rise; this is no doubt mainly owing to the extension of cultivation which there has been in the Settlement itself, whilst at Penang the result is more due to the development of the trade with Sumatra and other neighbouring ports.

The annexed Table gives the return of shipping entered and cleared at each of the Settlements in the year 1868 and 1869.

	Vessels Entered.				Vessels Cleared.			
	1868.		1869.		1868.		1869.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
Singapore - -	1,360	623,247	1,564	636,992	1,419	546,849	1,490	575,313
Penang - - -	514	183,656	564	269,848	457	173,643	559	288,611
Malacca - -	406	67,139	392	70,312	407	67,154	398	70,746
Total - -	2,280	874,042	2,520	977,152	2,283	787,646	2,447	934,670

The increase is hardly in proportion to the augmentation of trade being greatest at Penang, where it has been about 42 per cent. on ships entered, and 66 on ships cleared. At Singapore and Malacca it has been about the same, averaging 5 per cent.

As the period is at hand when the completion of the Blue Book returns for the year 1870 will furnish the means of ascertaining the progress which has been made by the Colony during the third year of its existence, I think it better to defer making any general observation on this head on the present occasion.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, (Signed) H. ST. GEORGE ORD.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 5.

Enclosure 1 in No. 5.

(No. 418.) Lieut.-Governor's Office,
Prince of Wales Island, May 23, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit my Report on the Blue Book of this Settlement for the year 1869.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency the Governor, (Signed) A. E. H. ANSON,
Straits Settlements. Lieut.-Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF PENANG FOR 1869.

Revenue.

The revenue shows an increase over that of 1868 of $9,869 38 c., at the same time the expenditure has been less by $17,619 27 c.

2. An increase is shown in the item "Licences farmed out," but the amount in excess is the arrear of rent alluded to in my Report on the Blue Book for the year 1868, which should have been paid in that year, but which was only recovered by an action in the Supreme Court of the Settlement against the opium farmer in the year 1869.

3. A considerable increase is shown under the heads of stamps, but this is due to the collection of judicial fees and of payments on account of the sale of Government land, being made by means of stamps, a system adopted during the previous year. The decrease shown in the revenue derived from fines, forfeitures, and fees of Court is to be similarly accounted for. A considerable increase has taken place in the revenue of the Post Office, while a decrease is shown in the expenditure of that department.

Local Revenue.

4. The revenue of the municipality was slightly increased by the addition of the new water-rate, but for which it would have been less than that of the preceding year. This is principally due to the loss of rent occasioned by the removal of some old buildings and the transfer to Government of the land on which they stood.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Public Works.

5. No works of importance were executed by the Government, but the town water-works were completed by the Municipal Commissioners.

6. The following Tables show the extent and cost of them.

RETURN showing COST of PIPES and of LABOUR in laying them down.

	Diameter of Pipes.	Length in feet.	Cost of Pipes.	Cost of Labour and Materials.
			$ c.	$ c.
Waterfall to Pulo Jikus	9-inch	10,431	7,245 55	2,058 21
Pulo Jikus to Beach Street	9 „	13,284	10,533 62	1,684 38
Jetty Junction	4 „	2,601	* nil.	257 83
Jetty Continuation	3 „	3,703	791 89	284 35
Prangin Branch	3 „	5,470	490 07	364 93
Beach Street	6 „	4,793	* nil.	824 87
Carnarvon Street	6 „	1,582	* nil.	176 47
Northam Road	3 „	1,270	* nil.	154 60
Northam Road continuation	2 „	2,790	579 23	245 31
Service pipes	¾ „	6,000	720 0	—
Service pipes	½ „	2,385	203 87	—
		54,309	20,564 23	6,050 95
Bends	¾ „	No. 138	33 12	
Bends	1½ „	„ 42	8 40	
Cocks	¾ „	„ 91	91 0	
			20,696 75	

* Old pipes were used.

STATEMENT of SUMS received and payments made on account of the WATER-WORKS.

	$ c.		$ c.
Amount borrowed	34,703 0	Purchase of pipes and freight thereon	21,873 75
Interest on amount placed in Bank, and profit on Exchange	894 62	Ditto ½-in. ditto, from Bombay and Singapore	425 47
Other credits by adjustments	504 04	Ditto ¼-in. and bends from Singapore	225 0
		Ditto ¾-in. and bends from ditto	17 0
		Plans for Works	17 0
		Landing and storing pipes	241 63
		Trenching, laying and adjusting pipes	6,258 63
		Viaduct across Waterfall river	436 43
		Compensation for land taken for Works	436 76
		Stamping indentures	87 15
			30,018 82
		Balance	6,079 84
	36,098 66		36,098 66
ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
Value of 1,216 feet of pipe supplied to houses at 12 c.	145 92	Cost of 5,000 feet ¾-in. pipe from Glasgow, estimated	623 20
Ditto 9 brass cocks, ditto	19 0	Ditto 500 brass cocks, ditto	500 0
	164 92		1,123 20

6. Considerable improvements were made in the streets and drains of the town, and a new bridge was commenced across the Prangin river at the end of Beach Street at a cost of about $4,000. This bridge will when finished greatly facilitate the traffic in the direction of the south of the Island, and be the means of considerably increasing the value of property in its neighbourhood.

Imports and Exports.

7. The imports of the year 1868 show a decrease as compared with those of 1867, but those of the past year show an increase over those of 1868 of $1,213,202, and over those of 1867 of $948,507.

8. Although the exports contrast favourably with those of 1868 showing an increase of $661,882, yet still they are less than those of 1867 by $1,743,448.

9. The following are the articles of import in which an increase is shown:—

Arms and ammunition,	Hides,	Salt,
Gum Benjamin,	Iron (bar and bolt),	Silk (raw),
Betelnut,	Lead (pig),	Specie,
Brandy,	Malt liquor,	Tin,
Camphor,	Opium (Benares),	Tobacco,
Cloves,	Pepper,	Wines.
Guano,		

10. A decrease is shown in the imports of the following articles, viz.:—

Beeswax,	Fishmaws,	Provisions (fresh),
Coal,	Fruits,	Rice,
Copra,	Gunny bags,	Silk (piece goods),
Dholl and gram,	Paper (gilt and coloured),	Thread,
Fireworks,	Piece goods,	Twist and yarn.

11. In exports an increase is shown in the following articles:—

Bark (Mangrove),	Hides,	Provisions (salt),
Gum Benjamin,	India-rubber,	Rattans and canes,
Bullock and buffaloes,	Nutmegs,	Rum,
Camphor,	Opium (Benares),	Specie,
Cocoanuts,	Ditto (Turkey),	Sugar,
Cocoanut oil,	Pepper,	Tea,
Fireworks,	Piece goods,	Tin,
Gold thread,	Pigs and poultry,	Tobacco.
Gutta percha,	Porcelain and earthenware.	

12. The decrease in the exports, was in the following articles, viz.:—

Arms and ammunition,	Gunnies and gunnybags,	Silk (raw),
Beeswax,	Hardware,	Tapioca,
Betelnut,	Paper (gilt and coloured),	Thread,
Birds' feathers,	Provisions (fresh),	Timber and plank,
Copra,	Rice,	Twist and yarn.
Cutch,	Seeds (assorted),	
Fishmaws,	Shark fins and skate skins,	

13. The countries with which an increase and decrease in the imports and exports took place are shown in the following Tables:—

Import.		Export.	
Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
India.	United Kingdom.	United Kingdom.	Hong Kong.
Hong Kong.	Ceylon.	Ceylon.	British Burmah.
Singapore and Malacca.	British Burmah.	Continental India.	Malacca and Singapore.
Nicobar Islands.	Trieste.	Nicobar Islands.	China.
France.	China.	Port Blair.	Arabia.
Hamburgh.	Goa.	France.	Batavia.
Siam.	North America.	Siam.	Goa.
Sumatra.		Sumatra.	
Malayan Peninsula.		Malayan Peninsula.	
Arabia.		Saigon.	
Batavia.		Australia.	
Japan.		North America.	
Maldive Islands.			

Shipping.

14. The amount of shipping contrasts favourably with that of the preceding year. An increase took place in the number of vessels of the larger, and a decrease in the number of

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

those of the smaller classes (schooners and brigs) both inwards and outwards. Among the former are included 26 steamers having an aggregate tonnage of 59,674 tons.

15. Altogether 22 more vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 65,706 tons, entered inwards than during the year 1868.

16. A decrease in the number of vessels which cleared outwards to the extent of 41 vessels, shows an increase in the tonnage of 84,455 tons, which is also principally attributable to the increase in the number of steamers of the larger class which left the port. The opening of the Suez Canal is likely to augment very considerably the number of steamers touching at this port, which, when the projected line of telegraph is completed, will probably become the port of call for all steam vessels trading to the eastward of these Straits.

Grants of Land.

17. The new treaty made during the year with Siam, by which an exchange of land was effected with the Rajah of Keddah, caused a slight reduction in the area of Province Wellesley. The land obtained from the Rajah is however more advantageously situated for agricultural purposes than that surrendered to him. It is already in demand by Chinese and other cultivators.

Agriculture.

18. The wet season was greatly protracted, and at first gave hope of a very large crop of paddy; this hope was not, however, realized, for the heavy rains about harvest-time beat down much of the standing corn, and a considerable portion was in consequence destroyed. This crop was also somewhat damaged by a small grub which attacked the plants, but on the whole the crop was above the average.

19. The cocoanut crop was a little below the average, and no considerable extent of new land was laid under this description of cultivation.

20. The crop of betelnut, an article in increasing demand for exportation, was a fair one.

Administration of Justice.

21. 78 persons were convicted of various offences at the assizes during the year, against 69 during 1868.

22. The Report of the Solicitor-General on the nature and result of each of these cases is appended.

23. One of these cases illustrates how strictly the rules of the Chinese secret societies for screening its members who commit crimes, however heinous, are adhered to.

24. In this case the man charged with murder belonged to one of the two Congsees which caused the riots of 1867.

25. Another case, that of gang robbery by a party of Malays from a neighbouring native state, may be considered as the remains of the old habits of piracy, so much practised by these people in former days, taking another form.

26. There was a case brought before the Court of Vice-Admiralty respecting the rightful ownership of part of a valuable cargo of tin, which had been recovered from the wreck of a vessel which was lost off Acheen in 1867.

27. It appeared that divers had been sent from Singapore and Penang by different persons to endeavour to recover the cargo of this vessel, and that a certain quantity of the tin found its way into the stores of the Sultan at Acheen, and some more into those of some of the merchants of Penang, upon which the agents of the underwriters made a seizure of the latter.

28. The case, after occupying the Court for a considerable time, was dismissed, the Deputy Judge finding that it was without the cognizance of the Court.

Charitable Institutions.

29. The daily average of sick in the Government hospitals of the Settlement was greater than during the previous year, but the proportion of deaths to the number treated was less.

30. On the whole, the sanitary condition of the Settlement was very satisfactory.

31. Out of the 69 cases sent by the police to the Government hospital at Butterworth, as paupers, the greater number were in a helpless condition.

32. In the hospital recently established at Val D'Or (in the south of Province Wellesley) by the planters, and supported by them, there was a daily average of 22·1 sick persons, and the percentage of deaths to the number was 8·8.

33. The Registration Ordinance came into force in the month of May, and during the remaining portion of the year the total number of deaths registered was 517, of which 236 were reported as having been from fever, 35 from old age, 32 from consumption, 32 from convulsions, 45 from diarrhœa and disordered bowels, and 26 from small-pox. 16 women died in childbirth, four persons died suddenly, three died from the effects of accidents, one person died from starvation, and five were murdered.

34. The accuracy of the Registrar's returns are not however, as yet, to be implicitly relied on.

35. The Vaccination Ordinance came into operation in the middle of September, and 930 persons were vaccinated between that time and the end of the year.

36. The Chinese appeared to appreciate the advantage of vaccination, and willingly avail themselves of the opportunities afforded of having their children operated upon.

37. The Malays in most of the districts have also brought their children forward freely to be vaccinated, but the Indian population have shown themselves apathetic and disinclined to take any trouble to bring their children to the public vaccinators.

General Remarks.

38. The principal event of the year was the visit of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, on which occasion all the different peoples and classes of the Settlement united in giving His Royal Highness a cordial and loyal reception.

39. There were no symptoms of disquiet among the Chinese societies during the year, and the prosperity of the Settlement has been greatly increased by the unusual immunity from disturbance that it has enjoyed since the riots of 1867.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. E. H. ANSON,
Lieut.-Governor.

MEMO. of CRIMINAL CASES tried at the ASSIZES during the year 1869.

Murder.

Ten cases of murder, in which 13 persons were implicated, were sent up to the sessions; four men received sentences of death, three of whom were executed. In one case a police constable was mortally wounded in endeavouring to apprehend a man who had been assaulting another; in two other cases the murderers and murdered men were Malays, and the origin of the crimes appears to have been family quarrels. In the fourth case a man was murdered at midnight at the door of a Ghi Hin Congsi house while the secretary of the society was swearing in members, and although from 200 to 300 Ghi Hins appear to have been present at the time, yet no evidence could be procured from those who were present as to the murderers; four men were taken up, one of whom was found guilty upon the dying statement of the deceased, but the sentence of death which was passed upon him was afterwards commuted; the other three men were discharged. The fifth case arose out of a quarrel in a Chinese gambling house, one man was charged with the crime, but was acquitted. In the sixth case the body of a Chinese gardener was found with wounds on it. His servant was tried for the murder, but was acquitted in consequence of difficulty in identifying the body, decomposition having set in when the body was found. The accused was afterwards tried and convicted of larceny of his master's goods. In the remaining four cases the accused were found guilty of manslaughter; one of them was sentenced to seven years' transportation, one to six months', and the other two to two years' imprisonment with hard labour. There was another case of murder, but the suspected party has not yet been apprehended.

Manslaughter.

2. Three cases arising out of sudden quarrels: in two cases the men were found guilty, one receiving sentence of twelve months, and the other, who had already been in custody about five months, one month simple imprisonment. No bill was returned in the third case.

Stabbing and Wounding with various Intents.

3. Eleven cases: two were respectively sentenced to seven and four years' transportation, three to two years' imprisonment with hard labour, and three to six months' simple

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

imprisonment; the rest were discharged. The parties concerned in these cases were principally Chinese.

4. There was one case of rape and two of sodomy, the parties implicated in which were found guilty. One case of beastiality was also sent up, but the bill was ignored.

5. Four indictments for abduction of girls under the age of sixteen were preferred, two of which were ignored; upon the third the jury returned a verdict of not guilty, and on the fourth the prisoner was convicted and sentenced to twelve months' simple imprisonment and to pay a fine of $50.

Burglary and Larceny.

6. Twenty-seven cases, in which 35 men were implicated, were sent up for trial at the criminal sessions: of these 13 were committed in the province, seven in George Town, and six in the country districts of the Island. Out of these latter were two cases which arose out of a gang robbery by night with violence, which took place on the night of the 19th January. The robbers, who are supposed to have come from the adjacent Malay state of Perak, numbered about 25 men, pillaged the village, and then set fire to the houses in the village. One of the gang was arrested three days after, and received sentence of 21 years' transportation, and a second man of the same party was arrested six months after and was sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour. In five cases the men were found guilty of the offence after a previous conviction for felony, and were each sentenced to seven years' transportation. Four men were acquitted, but all the remaining received sentences of from eighteen months' to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

Stealing in a Dwelling-house.

7. Four cases, in which seven men were implicated: one man was sentenced to seven years' transportation, three were severally sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour, and the rest were discharged.

Housebreaking.

8. There were four cases, in three of which four men were implicated: they were all found guilty, and received sentences of from one to two years' imprisonment with hard labour. In the fourth case the offender had not been arrested.

Robbery.

9. Five cases, six men implicated: three men were discharged, the others were respectively sentenced to seven years' transportation, three months' simple imprisonment, and eighteen months' imprisonment with hard labour. In most of these cases the offences were committed upon women and children.

Stealing from the Person.

10. Twelve cases: four men were found guilty after a previous conviction for felony, and were each sentenced to seven years' transportation. In three cases the men accused were discharged, and the rest received sentences varying from three months' simple imprisonment to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

Riot.

11. One case: the accused was sentenced to 12 months' imprisoment with hard labour and to pay a fine of $100.

Breach of Trust and Larceny.

12. Two cases: the parties were convicted and sentenced each to 18 months with hard labour.

Forgery.

13. Two cases: the forgery was of signatures to deeds of real property. In one case the prisoner was found guilty and sentenced to seven years' transportation; the bill on the other case was ignored.

Maiming Cattle.

14. Five cases: in two cases the men were acquitted, in the other three they were convicted.

Perjury.

15. In three out of four cases of perjury which were sent up the parties were convicted.

(Signed) D. LOGAN,
Solicitor-General.

Enclosure 2 in No. 5.

Enclosure 2 in No. 5.

(No. 236.)

SIR, Lieut.-Governor's Office, Malacca, November 5, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith my Report on the Blue Book of this Settlement for the year 1869, with amendments in some paragraphs as suggested by your Excellency in Despatch from the Assistant Colonial Secretary, No. $\frac{M}{1071}$, dated 27th ultimo.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The actual revenue for the year 1869 amounted to $123,626 35 c., being an increase of $14,716 82 c. on that of 1868. The items of increase are as follows:—

	$	c.
Land revenue	723	16
Licences farmed out	12,685	0
Port and harbour dues	623	73
Postage	189	80
Fees and miscellaneous receipts	495	13
Total	$14,716	82

The expenditure for 1869 amounted to $124,429 40 c., in 1868 $147,687 37 c., being a decrease of $23,257 93 c. on that for 1868.

This decrease is owing to reduction of expenditure in the public works and convict departments and local prisons, &c.

Military Establishment and Expenditure.

Consists of one European officer and 125 Madras native infantry. Considering that Malacca is surrounded by a population divided into numerous native states, many of them utterly barbarous, where the will of the strongest is the only recognized law, and with whom, as neighbours, any symptoms of weakness on our part would immediately lead to piratical incursions on theirs, I think the detachment should if possible be increased. The present cost of the detachment, irrespective of rations, is 2,311*l.* 4*s.*

Magistrates' Courts.

The business in the minor Courts occupies about from four to six hours daily; in addition to this, country Courts are held once a month at four stations, varying from 15 to 21 miles from town, which are central in the Settlement, and seven other Courts are held periodically, extending from one to two months at the frontier stations, distant from 26 to 32 miles from Malacca. At these last-mentioned stations the cases are very few, and I would recommend their being abolished, the four central stations being in my opinion quite sufficient. A Malay thinks nothing of walking 15 miles and back again in the same day.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports and exports for 1869 was 2,552,041, showing an increase of $271,299 above the imports for 1868. Exports for 1869 were $2,228,199, being $534,807 in excess of those for 1868.

The principal articles of imports were rice, Kachang oil, opium, tin, sugar, China tobacco, and treasure, &c. The principal articles of exports were rice, Kachang oil, opium, jaggery, tapioca, tin, tiles, and treasure, &c.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Shipping.

The only port in this Settlement is at the town of Malacca itself, and it is an open roadstead, very shallow, so that large vessels are obliged to anchor from three to four miles out. The principal trade is a coasting one by means of schooners and other small vessels of an average of 40 tons. Two small Chinese steamers run weekly to Singapore and Penang, but they are very uncertain; any chance of a small freight in any other direction will always be taken, and we then have no communication with Singapore or Penang, except the Burmah line steamer, which arrives from Calcutta once in each month on her way to Singapore; this is the only communication with Singapore which is to be depended upon.

Population.

According to a rough estimate, the population of this Settlement is 67,267 souls, exclusive of military and transmarine convicts. The white population (many of whom have mixed blood) is returned at 1,445 males and 1,203 females, but these are included in the total 67,267. Of the native or coloured races the great preponderance is with the Malays; the Chinese are next (many of whom are semi-Malayan). Third in importance are the Tamils, or the "Klings," also many of whom are native born; the remainder of the population are a few Bugis, Arabs, and wild forest men known as Mantras, Jacoons, Orang Hutan, with a sprinkling of islanders from the surrounding islands.

Immigration.

There is not at present any noticeable immigration from other parts of the Peninsula, or from the islands. The Malay is a lazy man, and prefers a feudal life among his own people, with the occasional excitement of fighting for their chiefs and sharing the spoil, to the quiet of a village life under our protection. A few Chinese arrive yearly at Malacca, but their numbers are balanced by the departure of those who have saved a little money and wish to carry their savings to their native land. It is impossible to give a very correct return under this head until a new census is taken; the last was taken in 1860.

Education.

The schools in Malacca are chiefly elementary. The free school for boys, indeed, aims at being something higher, and in each year sends out a few lads who have received a sufficient education to qualify them for appointments as clerks in mercantile offices and in the various departments of the public service. But the majority are the children of working people, and are removed by their parents as soon as ever they can earn any paltry sum to increase the family means.

During the year the trustees of the free school, at my suggestion, have introduced a change by which it will probably be much benefited; this is the abolition of certain small fees paid by a few children of the wealthier classes, thus making the school in reality, what it had always been in name, a free school; at the same time a fresh canvass of the Chinese inhabitants was made for voluntary subscriptions. The results have been eminently satisfactory so far, for the additional subscriptions considerably exceed the amount of fees for tuition previously received and the number of scholars has greatly and rapidly increased.

The girls' school, which is supported in part by a small endowment, has been revived during the year. The Government grant has not yet been renewed, but if the numbers of the pupils, children of poor parents, should increase, the school will no longer be self-supporting, and it will then be very desirable that it should receive some assistance from the public funds.

Children of all religious denominations are received into these two schools; among the successful candidates for prizes in the free school at Christmas there were Protestants, Roman Catholics, Buddhists, Hindoos, and Mahomedans. In the girls' school almost all the children at present are Protestants, and religious instruction is regularly given by the Colonial Chaplain, but children belonging to other denominations are not compelled to attend his class if the parents object.

There are five small Roman Catholic schools, four of which receive some help from Government, one of these is in connection with the interesting French mission to the Jacoons living in the jungle at "Ayer Salak."

The vernacular schools are not so well attended nor so well conducted as they ought to be. The Malay teacher, in most cases, is only too willing to fall in with the idea of education which has for generations prevailed amongst his people; the reading of the thirty

chapters of the Koran in Arabic, of which he does not understand one word, is considered sufficient for a man's interests in the next world and the temporal advantages of secular learning are little felt by a race devoid of ambition and utterly apathetic to all but sensual pleasures. Some instructions in reading books, written in the Malay language, as well as in writing and arithmetic, is required, but very few boys learn at school to speak or write their own language correctly, and it is probable that no great improvement will take place, unless a system is introduced by which all these schools should be periodically inspected, and the Malay teachers taught that their salaries depended upon the result of their teaching.

Gaols and Prisons.

There are three prisons in Malacca, Her Majesty's Gaol, the Convict Lines, and the House of Correction, the two latter are in one building, and the same man, an European, is Warder of both prisons, and he is the only European officer inside the Convict Lines, all the rest are selected from the good-conduct men of the convicts themselves, and the system works remarkably well; the Lines are model of cleanliness, the discipline is good, the escapes are of rare occurrence. As the transmarine convicts are soon to be returned to India, so much gaol accommodation will not be required, and I agree with the recommendation of my predecessor, Mr. Cairns, that Her Majesty's Gaol (which is a spacious, airy, modern building, about one mile from the public offices) be converted into a temporary residence for his Excellency the Governor and the Chief Justice, during their official visits there, the upper part of the stadt-house without any alteration will be ample accommodation for the Lieutenant-Governor and his family, all the public offices being underneath makes it a very suitable residence for the officer administering the Government.

Police Force.

The total strength 202, consisting of 1 Deputy Commissioner, 1 Inspector, 8 Serjeant-Majors, 5 Corporals, 15 Lance-Corporeals, 172 Constables.

The Lieutenant-Governor is ex-officio Commissioner of Police, which I consider is very detrimental to the public service. It also works very badly, it is always well known when the Lieutenant-Governor is in the country, going to the frontier, &c., no warrants can be signed during his absence, consequently the gamblers watch their opportunity and gamble with impunity. The Commissioner of Police, Straits Settlements, is senior in the police force to the Commissioner at Malacca; but how can he, in Malacca, give orders to the Commissioner of Police, who is also Lieutenant-Governor administering the Government? This is evidently an anomalous position for the senior Commissioner of Police to find himself in.

The force is composed of nearly all Malays and a few natives of India. They are entered for three years. The pay of the police force is too small, being less than the wages paid to a coolie working on a plantation, This of course is a great difficulty to overcome in getting men to enter, but as there is, I believe, a scheme for improving the pay of the force, I need not dwell further on that point. The men are fairly drilled, and, on the whole I think they are to be relied upon to do their duty, if well led by European officers. The proportion of only 2 European officers at Malacca to 200 natives is not in my opinion sufficient.

Charitable Institutions.

There is a pauper hospital, which has an allowance of $45 a month from the Government, but depends upon private subscriptions as well. It is situated in the town, in a very good position. The greater number of the patients are Chinese. The Malays are very much prejudiced against going into the hospital.

There is also a leper hospital on an island 7 miles distant from the town. It is supported in the same manner as the pauper hospital.

General Observations.

The area of the territory of Malacca is 421,000 acres, or very nearly 660 square miles. The coast line is 42 miles in length, while in breadth the Settlement varies from 4 to 24 miles. By road the distance from the town of Malacca to the

	Miles.
Northern frontier is - - - -	22
Western - - - - - -	34
Eastern - - - - -	21

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

It is estimated that 101,600 acres of land are under cultivation. The cultivation consists of chiefly rice, cocoanut and other fruit trees, and tapioca. There are besides a few nutmeg plantations, but not very productive, and a little gambier is grown at present experimentally. The rice or paddy (as it is called in the ear) is almost entirely grown by Malay and Chinese squatters, on holdings varying from 10 acres to $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre, and the crops are therefore not so productive as they would be on a larger scale. Cocoanuts are grown in small quantities throughout the territory, and it is only here and there that plantations of any magnitude are met with. The cultivation of tapioca is comparatively recent, and much land has been taken by Chinese and European planters for the purpose.

An alluvial deposit containing tin about 18 miles from Malacca is worked by a few Chinese, but the production has much fallen off of late years, the metal being obtained in greater abundance and more easily in the neighbouring states.

The land in Malacca is divided into crown land, private property land held by prescriptive rights, and land held by commutation deeds or leases. The crown lands are chiefly jungle and the uncultivated portion of the territory. Private property is such as was formerly granted by the Dutch Government or sold by the English; it is chiefly in the town and its neighbourhood, but it is not very extensive. Lands held by prescription are those which have been cleared by the natives, and on which they pay tenths to the Government according to the old-established custom of the country. The largest portion of the land in Malacca is held in this way, and a great prejudice exists among the natives against taking out leases or grants, although offered them at absurdly low prices. This is in fact the great question of Malacca. Could the Government collect fairly and honestly the tenths of the produce the revenue would be much increased. The natives have taken the idea that if they sign any kind of grant or lease they are signing away their property; on the other hand, they believe that if they only pay tenths the land will still be theirs when the English Government give up Malacca. I regret to say that this idea is told the natives by many of the oldest proprietors in the territory, and nothing that the Government can say or do will alter this opinion of theirs. A Land Act to define and settle this point about prescriptive right is very much needed.

Leases have been issued since the year 1863, and are more numerous near town where the inhabitants have come to appreciate the money value of a Government title, but these leases are chiefly taken by Chinese. The Malay prefers the old custom of tenths, which he considers a securer and more permanent title. A revenue survey of Malacca was commenced in 1856, and at the present time 66,422 acres have been surveyed, 14,000 squatters and owners of land registered. The portion surveyed lies nearly entirely within 15 miles from town; the remaining unsurveyed portion is about 38,178 acres. The amount of land which is likely to be brought under cultivation yearly may be estimated at 600 acres. On account of the scattered nature of the cultivation, together with the smallness of the holdings, averaging not more than two acres in extent, the area of cultivated land annually surveyed cannot be estimated at more than 3,000 acres, so that if the surveying staff at Malacca is not increased it will take 15 years to complete the revenue survey of the territory.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) E. W. SHAW,

Lieut.-Governor.

His Excellency Sir Harry Ord, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

REPORTS

ON THE

PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS

For the Year 1870.

PART I.—WEST INDIES.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
1872.

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1872.

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PART I.

JAMAICA.

No. 1.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir J. P. GRANT, K.C.B., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 103.)

MY LORD, King's House, August 4, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1870, together with my Report on it.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, (Signed) J. P. GRANT.

&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Enclosure in No. 1.

REPORT ON THE JAMAICA BLUE BOOK FOR 1870.

Legislation.

Thirty-five laws were passed during this year. Of these the following are the most important:—

Law 1 of 1870 provides for two assistants to the Attorney-General, one for each of the two circuits, who, in subordination to the Attorney-General, perform in effect the duties of public prosecutor, first in sanctioning the presentment of public indictments, and then in personally conducting the prosecution, at the circuit courts, of the persons so indicted. Felonies and grave misdemeanours are always the subjects of public prosecution. Thus, practically, a public prosecutor has been constituted; though the right of private indictment remains.

Law 2 of 1870 reduces the number of puisne judges of the Supreme Court from three to two; and reduces the number of places for holding circuit courts from thirteen to six. This law was passed upon the resignation of the office of chief justice by Sir Bryan Edwards, who retired under the regular system of superannuation pensions lately introduced into this Colony, and was succeeded by Sir John Lucie Smith, C.M.G.; and the resignation of the office of puisne judge by Mr. Kemble, who retired on a special pension equal to half salary, and whose office was thereupon abolished.

By this reduction a gross saving of 600*l.* a year was effected; out of which 200*l.* a year were allotted as an increase to the salary of the Chief Justice, which thus became 2,000*l.* a year; and 375*l.* were

JAMAICA.

allotted as travelling expenses for the judges going circuit, who before were required to make their circuits at their own charge. Thus the net saving at present is only 25*l.* a year; but this will be increased by 600*l.* a year when Mr. Kemble's pension lapses. This arrangement has placed all the judges of the Supreme Court on a somewhat more proper footing than they were on before.

Law 3 of 1870 abolishes the offices of the clerks of the peace and clerks to the magistrates, and makes better provision for the discharge of all executive magisterial duties than was made under the former system. The old Statute, 23 Vic., cap. 18, for providing and regulating the salaries and fees of the clerks of the peace and clerks of the magistrates, expired on the 31st December, 1866, and was only continued in force by temporary laws until all the arrangements for the remodelling of the offices in question could be carried into effect. By this law pensions were granted to the clerks of the peace and magistrates' clerks, in compensation for the abolition of office; and the office of clerk of petty sessions has been created instead. Those clerks of the peace who chose to accept the new office (which involves the abandonment of private practice, the devotion of the holders' whole time to the public duties, and considerable locomotion in parochial circuits) were appointed thereto. These clerks of petty sessions are paid wholly by salary. The fees formerly paid to clerks of the peace are by this law converted into stamp duties, the proceeds of which form a part of the ordinary revenues of the Colony. The fixed allowances of the clerks of petty sessions, exclusive of travelling allowances, are covered or nearly covered by the stamp duties.

The actual net saving already made on the whole scheme, after deducting from the gross saving a sum of 1,534*l.* for life pensions granted to the former clerks of the peace and magistrates' clerks, and the cost of the new offices of two assistants to the Attorney-General (who have become public prosecutors), and of five circuit court clerks, which together may be taken at 1,410*l.* a year, was calculated at about 2,256*l.* a year. But from this must be deducted the travelling allowances of the petty sessions clerks, at present amounting in all to about 1,200*l.* a year.

The clerks of petty sessions have the powers of a justice of the peace; but being the officers of the justices they do not sit judicially at the trial of cases in petty sessions, and do not exercise any judicial power. They perform all the other functions of a justice of the peace, and they make periodical visits to certain out-stations in their parishes for the purpose of issuing process. In short, they do in their own names, avowedly, and on their own personal responsibility, without the nominal intervention of anyone else, all that the former clerks of the peace used to do really, but without any personal responsibility, by means of documents signed under their advice by a justice of the peace. Cases are tried judicially by the justices in petty sessions, as heretofore. In this truly judicial duty the justices act really on their own judgments; being of course at liberty to consult their officer on technical points of law or practice.

Law 4 of 1870. District courts having been established all over

the Island, this law was passed to transfer to them exclusively the concurrent jurisdiction heretofore exercised by the magistrates' courts on claims for debt not exceeding ten pounds, and claims of damage for tort not exceeding forty shillings. The sittings of the magistrates in petty sessions were not very regular, nor did they constitute a very suitable tribunal in cases of tort, which, however small the damage, frequently involve points of difficulty, the correct decision of which is of local importance. The process of execution in the courts of the justices of the peace was a means of great abuse, and a source of constant complaint, by reason of the unsatisfactory conduct, generally, of their officers designated collectors of petty debts, whose legitimate emoluments of office (derived from fees) were so small that proper men could not be expected to accept the office.

Law 7 of 1870 abolishes the office of Financial Secretary, and transfers the duties of that office to the Colonial Secretary. The finances of the Colony having been extricated from the state of embarrassment in which they were involved when the new Government was constituted, and the reorganization of the revenue departments having been completed, the time had arrived when a second secretary was no longer indispensable, as the work could be done by one secretary, with the help of an assistant secretary. This law was accordingly passed, causing an immediate saving of 200*l.* a year, and an ultimate saving of 700*l.* a year.

Law 9 of 1870 extinguishes the Main Road Fund. This fund was opened in the books of the Treasury in the year 1858, under the Island Act, 21 Vic., cap. 34. When that Act was passed, it was intended, apparently, to create a real fund for the improvement and repair of the main roads and bridges under the management of a body styled the "Main Road Commissioners." All revenue derived from the land tax under the 8 Vic. cap. 16, and from the redemption thereof under the provisions of the 21 Vic. cap. 34; from all tolls upon the roads; from one-fifth part of the tax on horses and wheels; and from all special grants made for the maintenance and improvement of main roads, was credited to this fund, and was transferred to the Main Road Commissioners, to be by them appropriated for the maintenance and improvement of the main roads, and for securing a fund for the repayment of any moneys to be borrowed for that purpose, and the payment of the interest thereon. But in practice the whole scheme immediately broke down. The power to redeem land tax was taken away by the 24 Vic., cap. 36. The tolls were abolished on the 1st October, 1863. The original revenue of the fund, which was never adequate, came thus to be reduced greatly below the necessary amount. In December, 1861, certain additional import duties were imposed, specially in aid of the Main Road Fund. These import duties yielded about 10,000*l.* a year. But they failed to make the fund solvent. Thus for many years past the Main Road Fund, notwithstanding loans raised in its name to the amount of 100,350*l.* (great part of which was expended in current repairs), had become quite inadequate to meet the disbursements chargeable against it. Consequently when it came to an end, it already owed 32,695*l.* to the general chest, besides the 100,350*l.* of loan moneys above

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mentioned, for which the Island revenues were responsible. Thus the fund was a nominal affair, representing only so much public debt. It had become necessary either that some adequate revenue should be provided to make the fund into a reality, or that it should be abolished. The latter course being the simpler was adopted.

The security of the moneys raised under the several Loan Acts passed from time to time to sustain this fund is not affected by this law, as the public revenue of the Colony is and always was pledged for payment both of the interest and principal of these loans. The only effect of this abolition has been to strike off a nominal asset of the Colony, and a corresponding nominal debt, leaving the real debt as it was.

Law 14 of 1870 abolished the tax on breeding stock and boats. The first-named tax was originally imposed in the year 1857, but was increased, a tax on boats being simultaneously imposed in the year 1861. The practical effects of the abolition of these taxes are reported on under the head of Finance.

Law 15 of 1870 abolishes the tonnage dues on vessels trading to this Island. The lighthouse dues of 5*d.* a ton are still in force, and continue to be levied for the maintenance of two important light-houses. The tonnage dues ceased to be levied on the 31st of March of the year now under report. The practical effect of this law also is noted under the head of Finance.

Law 20 of 1870 establishes a Government Savings Bank on the principle of the Imperial Post Office Savings Bank. This bank is placed under the management of the treasurer, and a branch bank has been opened at each parochial treasury, and at a few out-stations in some of the larger parishes.

Moneys are received into and paid out of these branch offices, under regulations prescribed by the Governor in Privy Council. No private depositor can deposit more than 200*l.* in any one year, nor more than 400*l.* in all. But this restriction does not apply to public departments and judicial deposits; nor does it apply to certain charitable associations. Interest is allowed on deposits at the rate of four per cent. per annum. It is expected that the difference between this rate and five per cent. (which is now the current rate upon public loans) will at least defray the expenses of the new institution. The rate of interest formerly allowed to the private savings banks was six per cent. per annum. This measure, therefore, promises to effect a saving of at least one per cent. on the gross amount of savings in deposit, which amount already to between 80,000*l.* and 90,000*l.*

The practical operation of this law has been to substitute, for the seven stations whereat there were formerly private savings banks, 17 stations, at each of which there is now a branch of the Government Savings Bank. Thus a savings bank is now placed within easy reach of persons in all parts of the Island; and all depositors have the security of the Government for the due repayment of the moneys deposited. By the institution of a Government Savings Bank the possibility of losses, such as occurred lately in the disastrous case of the Trelawny Savings Bank, described in a former Report, is avoided. A

great convenience is afforded by the Government Savings Bank, by allowing a depositor at any one station to obtain payment of his deposit at any other station.

The Government Savings Bank did not come into full operation until the close of the year 1870, when interest ceased to be allowed on the balances of the private savings banks. But on the 31st December, 1870, transfers to the value of 3,676*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* had already taken place from the private banks to the Government bank; and there were at that time 469 depositors in all in the Government Savings Bank, the value of whose deposits amounted to 16,199*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*

Law 24 of 1870 authorizes the Governor in Privy Council to declare any ports or places in this Island to be ports of entry and clearance. Formerly the authority granted to the Governor by this law was vested solely in the Crown.

Law 28 of 1870 facilitates the discharge of the business in the circuit courts at Kingston, by empowering the Governor to appoint, whenever it may be necessary, one of the puisne judges of the Supreme Court to assist the Chief Justice in disposing of the business of the circuit court at Kingston, by holding a separate court, simultaneously sitting.

Law 30 of 1870 has been passed to regulate the immediate disestablishment and the gradual disendowment of the Church of England in this Island, on the expiry by efflux of time of the last of the Clergy Acts under which a temporary Church establishment had been created. It authorizes a constitution to be formed for the future government of the Church of England in Jamaica on the voluntary principle; and it gives power to Her Majesty, whenever the proper time arrives, to incorporate by charter the duly appointed representatives of the Church communion, after which incorporation the Governor will have the power to vest in such corporate body all Church property. This law was considered necessary, on the expiry of "the Clergy Act, 1858," to sanction the new voluntary communion, to facilitate its constitution, and to make provision for the continuance of their stipends to those clergymen upon the late establishment who shall continue in the due discharge of their ecclesiastical duties as members of the voluntary communion. The law has been framed on the Canadian and Irish precedents. A correspondence relating to the disestablishment of the Church of England in Jamaica, the result of which was the enactment of this measure, has passed with the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Law 31 of 1870. A law relating to savings banks. This was passed in order to give facilities to depositors desirous of transferring to the Government Savings Bank their accounts in any existing savings banks, and to enable the trustees of savings banks to close such banks.

By the second section of this law it is provided that, on the 1st January, 1871, all interest payable by the public on the cash balances in the Treasury at the credit of the several savings banks under private management, should cease to accrue.

Law 35 of 1870. A law for winding up the Trelawny Bank for

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savings was passed in consequence of a petition adopted at a public meeting of depositors, representing by far more than a moiety of the owners of the whole of the funds for which the bank is liable. This meeting was specially called for the purpose of considering the expediency of applying to the Legislature for such a law as this; and at the meeting a petition was adopted, incorporating the draft of a bill in no material respects differing from the law.

Adaptations of three laws in force in England were made by the Legislative Council in 1870.

Law 6 of 1870 protects seamen's clothing and property. Its provisions are taken from the Imperial Statute 32 and 33 Vic., cap. 57.

Law 8 of 1870 amends the law relating to promissory oaths, by assimilating such oaths to those now taken in England.

Law 16 of 1870, commonly called the Habitual Criminals Law of 1870, consists mainly of selections from the Imperial Statute 32 and 33 Vic., cap. 99, on the same subject. This law, like the English law from which it is taken, may be improved after experience of its working has been obtained. I expect beneficial results from its enactment, after it has been some little time in operation; and I am of opinion that still more beneficial results would be obtained, by carrying still further the principle of exceptional legislation for this peculiar class of criminals.

Finance.

The present Report embraces the financial year 1869-70, ending with the 30th of September. This is the fourth financial year since the establishment of the new Constitution.

In my last years' Report I was able to announce that (allowance being made for the large amount of taxes abolished) the revenue would be found to have materially improved, even beyond the large revenue of the preceding year; and I stated that it was expected that a surplus of not less than 25,000*l.* or 30,000*l.* would be shown by the accounts when closed. It will be seen that this expectation has been much more than realized. The surplus of revenue over expenditure in this year, 1869-70 (apart from the revenue and expenditure for immigration services, and after deducting from it 4,930*l.* paid to sinking funds for the eventual redemption of debt; and a further sum of 950*l.* paid from revenue within the year in actual extinction of debt), as shown by the books, amounted to 39,938*l.* To this sum should properly be added an amount of 683*l.*, which had been drawn in the June and September quarters of the past year, but had not been accounted for before the closing of the transactions of the year. This sum was, however, included in my Report as part of the payments in 1868-69, and therefore should not be viewed in this Report as forming part of the expenditure of the year 1869-70. The surplus of this latter year may therefore be increased by this amount, showing a true total of 40,621*l.*

In the estimates of the now current year 1870–71, this surplus has been appropriated in the following manner:—Special services on roads, bridges, and works, 22,508*l.*, and for the census, 6,000*l.*,

leaving still available 12,113*l.*, from which will be paid debentures falling due within the year, amounting to 5,450*l.*

No new taxation was imposed in the year under review. On the contrary, in the course of this year the Colony was relieved of taxation to an extent which, according to the yield of 1868–69, cannot be estimated at less than at the rate of 41,000*l.* a year. Of this amount of relief, not less than 21,410*l.* was operative in the year now under report. The following are the items of taxation, with the yield of each item in 1868–69, which were abandoned in the course of the year 1869–70 :—

	£
Additional import duty - - - - -	18,427
Tonnage dues (exclusive of light dues) - -	14,136
Tax on breeding stock, &c. - - - -	8,848
	£41,411

The additional import duty was a new tax of one-tenth additional to the old import duties, imposed as a temporary measure in the year 1867–68, to meet a remainder of financial difficulty which was then still oppressing the Colony; on the expiry of the term for which the tax was imposed, all financial difficulties having been meanwhile overcome, the additional duty was not renewed. The other two taxes removed were permanent imposts originating under the old constitution.

The unpopularity of recognized fiscal principles here, makes any reduction of taxes anything but a pleasant duty. Nevertheless I have received no complaints in consequence of the expiry of the additional import duty. But this has not been the case with the tonnage duty, than which a more unsound and impolitic, and indeed a more unjust tax, is not easily conceivable. Being paid into the Treasury from the hands of the shipowner or his agent, many colonists imagine that by this method, in some magical manner, foreigners are made to pay their taxes for them, presuming, apparently, that the shipowner forgets to recover the charge by increased freightage. The tax was not a trifling impost, being equal to nearly two-thirds of the immigration export duty, a duty which, though in a manner self-imposed, is not unfelt. It was in effect a merely nominal duty on valuable imports, such as silks and satins; but a heavy impost upon bulky exports, such as logwood, and a substantial impost upon such an article as sugar. I must confess, however, that the abolition of tonnage dues is an unpopular measure. I have received, indeed, formal complaints from the owners of coasting craft, who benefit by the abolition, as all other owners of vessels do, on the ground that now that vessels from England can visit every port in the Island, if they please, untaxed, the owners of the small coasting vessels are deprived of their time-honoured monopoly of the Island port to port trade. The grievance, I am afraid, is imaginary; for a little wholesome competition of interlopers in this business would do much good. The tax on breeding stock was unjust, as being imposed exclusively on one particular class of agriculturists, which class pays also on their land just as all other classes do; and it was impolitic, as discouraging

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the breeding of horses, cattle, asses, mules, and sheep, than which a more generally useful employment of capital can hardly be imagined. But with those who did not pay the tax, its abolition cannot be said to have been popular. I remember reading an attack on the measure in one of the public prints, and if there was a defence, it escaped my eye.

I believe, however, that I may safely prophesy that, whenever it shall become necessary to raise a new tax, resort will not be had to either of these last-mentioned sources.

The healthy condition of the finances, as shown above, is to be attributed to the revival of trade noticed in my former Report, to the general advancement in prosperity of the Colony, and to the continuing improvement in the collection of the revenue.

The following are the figures in the books which give the actual results of the financial year 1869–70 :—

	£
General revenue - - -	414,418
Expenditure - - - -	374,480
Surplus - -	£39,938

To which must be added the sum of 683*l.* mentioned above, giving a real surplus of 40,621*l.*

The Immigration Fund Account is not included in the above figures. Its revenue and expenditure for the year were as follows :—

	£
Revenue - - - - -	26,105
Expenditure - - - - -	36,016

The difference between the immigration revenue and expenditure of the year, viz. 9,911*l.*, was defrayed from the moneys standing in the treasurer's books to the credit of the Immigration Fund Account. The balance in favour of the fund on the 30th September, 1869, was 12,163*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, and the balance left to the credit of the fund on the 30th September, 1870, was 2,252*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*

This fund, which was constituted by law in its present form in the year 1862, is replenished, whenever necessary, by loans specially raised, as may become requisite from time to time ; the amount of its debt being, on the other hand, in constant process of reduction, by annual or other periodical payments charged to the annual immigration revenue from exports and head money. These loans are by law so arranged, that every loan must be wholly paid off from revenue in the course of fifteen years. The principle is, that as the services of the immigrants imported in any year are useful for a series of years, the cost of their importation should be spread over a series of years. The number of immigrants imported, and consequently the expenses in any year, depend entirely on the number of immigrants indented for by planters. Consequently the charges sometimes exceed and sometimes fall short of the year's revenue.

The following Table gives the whole of the Treasury receipts of the

year 1869–70, both of revenue and of other moneys, as compared with those of the year immediately preceding:—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR 1869–70 AND 1868–69.

	1869–70.			1868–69.			More.			Less.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Import Duty (old) -	192,187	19	11½	184,632	14	7	8,355	5	4½	—		
" " (additional) - - -	9,446	14	4½	18,465	10	0	—			*9,018	15	7½
Tonnage Dues - -	10,447	10	6	17,166	2	7	—			†6,718	12	1
Excise—Rum Duty -	78,263	11	6	74,178	4	6	4,085	7	0	—		
" Spirit Licences	13,567	10	0	11,537	10	0	2,030	0	0	—		
Trade Licences—Old	466	2	6	471	16	0	—			5	13	6
" " New	7,132	0	0	6,922	3	10	209	16	2	—		
Stamps - - -	11,482	3	10½	12,365	2	4½	—			882	18	6
Land Tax — Old — Roads - - -	7,348	12	8	8,516	4	2¾	—			1,267	11	6¾
Land Tax—Property Tax—New - -	4,319	7	5¼	4,566	7	5¼	—			247	0	0
Poor Rate — House Tax - - -	17,228	16	4	16,491	2	10¾	931	13	5¼	—		
Horse and Wheel Tax —Roads - - -	20,939	13	2	21,571	8	10	—			631	15	8
Tax on Stock - -	3,203	9	11	8,848	2	10½	—			‡5,644	12	11½
Dog Tax—New - -	136	14	0	193	12	0	—			56	18	0
Post Office -	13,067	16	9	12,739	2	9	328	14	0	—		
Miscellaneous - -	24,379	17	0½	16,155	8	10	8,124	8	2½	—		
Total Revenue -	414,418	0	0¼	414,826	13	8¾	—			408	13	8½
RECEIPTS ON ACCOUNT OF IMMIGRATION FUNDS.												
Export Duty - -	22,556	18	7	23,773	9	5	—			1,216	10	10¾
Capitation Tax, &c. -	3,547	19	6	3,839	10	4	—			291	10	10
RECEIPTS ON DEBT ACCOUNT.												
Excess of Deposits in Treasury over withdrawals - - -	8,236	7	5	33,457	15	10	—			25,221	8	5
Grand Total Receipts	448,759	5	6¼	475,897	9	3¾	—			27,138	3	9½

* Ceased from April 1, 1870.
† Abolished from April 1, 1870, with the exception of Lighthouse Dues.
‡ Abolished from August 1, 1870.

From this Table it will be seen that, notwithstanding a loss of 21,382*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, attributable to taxes which ceased, or were abolished, within the year, the general revenue of 1869–70, on the whole, fell short of the general revenue of 1868–69, only by 408*l.* 13*s.* 8½*d.*

The principal sources of increased revenue will be found in import duties, excise, and miscellaneous. Under this last head are included prison sales and other disbursements in aid, fees of district and petty session courts, and the proceeds of fines, forfeited recognizances, &c., &c. In the main this item represents, virtually, deductions from charges.

The current expenditure in the year amounted to 368,600*l.*, as against 333,517 in the year 1868–69. Below is a Table showing the Treasury disbursements of the year under report, both on account

of current expenditure, and on all other accounts, contrasted with those of the preceding year.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEARS 1869–70, 1868–69.

	1869–70.	1868–69.	More.	Less.
	£	£	£	£
Civil	20,912	20,024	888	—
Judicial	15,640	15,332	308	—
„ District Courts	11,457	10,118	1,339	—
Revenue	32,615	30,394	2,221	—
Botanic Gardens, &c.	1,542	1,233	309	—
Post Office	13,353	10,782	2,571	—
Ecclesiastical	21,774	25,527	—	3,753
Medical	18,313	16,931	1,382	—
Constabulary	40,586	38,921	1,665	—
Prisons	22,450	20,624	1,826	—
Education	9,190	6,244	2,946	—
Miscellaneous	5,413	4,480	933	—
Military	3,651	1,621	2,030	—
Roads	44,731	35,419	9,312	—
Buildings and Works	22,680	9,053	13,627	—
Pensions	11,128	8,684	2,444	—
Lighthouses	1,201	1,288	—	87
Harbour Masters	108	142	—	34
Parochial Expenditure	27,520	26,575	945	—
Interest on Debt	44,336	50,125	—	5,789
Total current Expenditure	368,600	333,517	35,083	—
Sinking Funds	4,930	14,930	—	10,000
Redemption of Debt from Revenue	950	6,800	—	5,850
Total Disbursements, exclusive of charges on Immigration Fund Account	374,480	355,247	19,233	—
Charges on Immigration Fund Account	36,026	32,447	3,569	—
Grand Total Disbursements	410,496	387,694	22,802	—

The increase of expenditure is principally in the items of buildings and works, roads, education, post-office, pensions, revenue charges, and military. The three first of these items and the item of pensions will be noticed in other parts of this Report. The increase in the Post-office Department is mainly owing to the non-payment until 1869–70 of a portion of the amount due to the Imperial Government on account of ocean postage, in the preceding year, and is therefore mainly nominal. There was consequently a trifling excess of charges over receipts in this Department. The increase in the revenue charges is due to the appointment of a supervisor of excise, with a special view to the excise branch, who, however, is most usefully employed also in other branches, and to the organization, in the early part of 1869, of the office of the new functionary designated the Collector-General, who presides over every branch of the revenue. The increase under the head of Military is owing to the grant this year of an allowance of so much a head to all non-commissioned officers and privates, in compensation for customs duties formerly refunded to the canteens, which formerly did not appear as a charge at all. This, therefore, is a nominal increase. There was an increase in the charges of the district courts, caused by the operation for the whole year of the three additional district courts constituted in

1869, and by the appointment of a district court judge specially for the Kingston Court, which had been before served by Mr. Cargill, one of the judges of the Supreme Court. There was an increase of medical charges, consequent on the extended organization of the new medical service, and the establishment of the new Lepers' Home, but, on the other hand, the expenditure under the head of Quarantine has been much less than it was in 1869. The Constabulary Department having been in operation for the whole year, its substitution for the old police having been completed in 1869, has caused an increased expenditure under this head. Of the increase shown under the head of Prisons, 500*l.* is attributable to a greater expenditure on the Government Reformatory at Stony Hill, and the remainder is accounted for by an increased number of prisoners in confinement. On the other hand, there has been a considerable decrease of expenditure under the head of Ecclesiastical, owing to casual vacancies in the Establishment, which have not been filled up by reason of the disestablishment and eventual disendowment of the Church of England in Jamaica. And there has been a most satisfactory decrease under the head of Interest on Debt (5,789*l.*), in consequence of the relief afforded in respect of the guaranteed loan, under the provisions of the Acts recently passed for applying the existing sinking funds to the extinction of part of the debt, and for extending the period for the redemption of the remainder.

Pensions.

Pensions to the amount of 325*l.* a year were granted to clergymen retiring from the Establishment, whose places have not been filled up; and special compensation in the form of pensions to the extent of 2,364*l.* 4*s.* a year was granted to other officers who had lost their offices in consequence of economical reforms introduced into their departments.

Under the general superannuation system introduced, pensions were granted in regular course amounting to 1,317*l.* 13*s.*, and the pension list has been relieved to the amount of 842*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* by deaths and re-employment of pensioners in the course of the year. The increased annual charge on the pension list is at the rate of 3,163*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*

Debt.

As in the year before, so in year 1869–70, no loan for which the general revenues of the Colony are responsible was raised, in addition to the previously existing debt. But further instalments, amounting in all to 11,000*l.* of the Kingston Market Loan under Law 7 of 1869, were taken up, the debentures (carrying six per cent. interest) selling at favourable premiums, as high in one case as seven per cent.

Under the arrangements authorized by the Imperial Statute 32 and 33 Victoria, chapter 69, and the Local Law 39 of 1869 (which was explained in my last year's Report), the guaranteed debt of 600,000*l.* has been reduced by the considerable sum of 227,800*l.*, debentures to that amount having been paid off out of the proceeds of the sinking funds heretofore provided on account of the loans.

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Under the Imperial Statute above cited, an issue of new debentures, representing 367,600*l.*, has been made, of which 211,100*l.* have been sold, and the proceeds applied to the purchase of a like value of debentures under the former Guaranteed Loan Law. The remainder, 156,500*l.*, are retained in the hands of the trustees of the sinking funds to be sold in order to pay off, or buy in, as opportunity offers, the yet outstanding debentures of the loan. The debentures of the new issue kept in the hands of the trustees bear no interest until they are issued to the public.

The guaranteed debt of 600,000*l.* has thus been converted, practically, into a debt of 367,000*l.*, to be paid off in 27 years.

The immediate relief to the Colony consists in a reduced payment of interest and sinking fund of 15,168*l.* per annum for the first two years of the term, of 12,252*l.* per annum for the next nine years, and of 7,944*l.* per annum for the four years following this last term. The operation has also effected a positive saving of capital amounting to about 60,800*l.*, by putting a stop to the large and annually increasing loss of money at compound interest, arising from the difference of rates between the interest paid on the debt, and the interest accruing from the sinking fund maintained for its redemption. The sinking fund of the new loan is invested, not in Consols, but in approved Indian or Colonial securities, bearing interest not at lower, as heretofore, but at higher rates than that paid by Jamaica on the loan itself.

The issue of debentures at five per cent. in substitution of debentures at six per cent., under the provisions of Law 47 of 1869 (which was also explained in my last year's Report), has favourably progressed.

At the end of the year now under report, six per cent. debentures to the value of 63,850*l.* had been presented for conversion into five per cent. debentures of equal amount, and since that time a further and similar conversion of debentures to the extent of 50,410*l.* has been effected. Thus 1,142*l.* annually is saved in interest.

Dr. *Cr.*

To loans:—	£	£	By redemption of loans:—	£
New debentures issued ..	—		Guaranteed loan, 17 Vic. ..	388,900
Consolidated Guaranteed Loan Law 39 .. £367,600			„ immigration do. 15 and 16 Vic.	50,000
Less in hands of trustees of sinking fund not bearing interest 156,500			Loan 18 Vic. cap. 66	4,300
	211,100		„ 21 Vic. cap. 34	46,300
Consolidated Loan Law 47 of 1869	63,850		„ 21 Vic. cap. 44, and 22 Vic. cap. 24	27,450
	274,950		Loan 24 Vic. cap. 26	1,800
Difference being reduction in debt	261,400		„ 25 Vic. cap. 44	5,000
			„ 27 Vic. cap. 24	200
			„ 27 Vic. cap. 37	2,200
			„ 29 Vic. cap. 4	8,550
			„ Law 2 of 1867	600
			„ Law 23 of 1868	100
			By redemption of loans from expenditure loan, 28 Vic cap. 24	950
	£536,350			£536,350

A further effect of this law is, that under it provision is made for the redemption of 73,450*l.* of loans, for meeting which at maturity provision heretofore had not been made. These will now be met as they fall due (unless paid off from the cash in chest) from the proceeds of five per cent. debentures, to be issued for the purpose, under the authority of this law.

During the year 32,650*l.* of debt were paid off from the surplus revenue of last year, and 950*l.* from the revenue of the current year, causing an annual saving of interest to the extent of 2,016*l.*

The preceding Table shows the operations of the year on debt account.

A sum of 4,930*l.* was invested in sinking funds for the eventual redemption of debt on account of Island loans for general objects, and an investment of 1,171*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* was made on the like account from the immigration revenues in respect of immigration loans.

The public debt stood as follows on the 30th September of each of the last five years, after making allowance in every year for the sinking funds invested for the redemption of debt:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1866	757,316	17	8
1867	788,090	19	1
1868	771,140	12	3
1869	746,043	17	5
1870	665,643	11	3

For each year, to these sums must be added the amounts due by the Treasury to certain local works, for which loans had been specially raised by Statute, under the late Government. These amounts are now reduced to 13,324*l.* In 1866 they exceeded 16,080*l.*

The interest paid this year on all loans amounted to 46,633*l.*, which sum includes 2,297*l.* on account of immigration loans—a reduction of 8,000*l.* from the amount paid last year, which was 54,633*l.*

Land.

A very important operation was commenced, and some progress was made in carrying it out this year.

One of the worst evils in the Colony is the extent to which the practice of squatting is carried.

So far as squatters may be allowed to settle themselves on the lands of owners resident themselves in the Colony, or having a representative here, the evil cannot be remedied by Government action. It is true that the loss of rent to the owner may be to him no great matter. But the demoralization which the practice inflicts upon the Colony is a great matter. Nevertheless the Legislative Council having provided, by means of the district courts, and the District Courts Land Law, a cheap, easy, and certain means of recovering possession of lands from persons having no title, and no colour of title thereto, the rest must be left in these cases to the good sense of the parties interested. But the greatest number of squatters are upon lands to which it is unknown whether any title except that of the Crown exists, and it is certain that if such a title do exist, the unknown party entitled has

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abandoned all care or concern with the land. A population of squatters upon extensive tracts of land of this sort is not only a public nuisance of great magnitude, but a serious danger. For the law being against these people, who live under the daily risk of eviction, they naturally are aginst the law; instead of being as peasant proprietors, or peasant renters should be, among the strongest supporters of the law.

The District Courts Land Law enables the Crown, where no owner is apparent, and where land is squatted upon by persons having no claim or colour of title, or right of any sort, after a suit in the district court, to enter upon the land, provisionally, on behalf of the owner, should an owner come forward within seven years, and to grant seven years' leases (either to the former squatters or to others) in the same way as an owner can grant them.

The result is that the squatters are not ill-satisfied to get a good lease for a fair rent, in exchange for their previously precarious possession. In fact they have made no serious opposition to the legal action taken by the Crown agents. No ill-feeling whatever has ever been reported to me as having arisen in consequence of the enforcement on the part of the Crown, of this law; under which in no very long time the greatest social and political evil we have to deal with in this Colony will be quietly eradicated.

Upwards of 12,000 acres of such lands as I have here described had been surveyed at the close of the financial year 1869–70; and considerable portions of these lands have now been actually taken possession of provisionally by the Crown, under judicial decrees, and have been lawfully leased to willing tenants for periods of seven years. On the 30th September, 1870, 189 squatters had been ejected from 4,441 acres of land, under judicial decree. The action taken in this matter is universally regarded as highly beneficial to the Colony, both in a political and economical point of view. The status of the squatter himself, if he takes the land on lease, is raised by the change. The temptation of being able to get land without paying any rent for it induces men to separate themselves from civilization; whilst the uncertainty of possession belonging to the position of a squatter is inconsistent with all steady habits of industry, and with all improvement in agriculture.

Public Works.

On roads and bridges the following sums have been expended in each of the last five financial years, as shown by the treasurer's books, exclusive for the year 1866 of a sum of 2,203*l.* from the balance of a loan raised by the late Government for main road purposes:—

	1865–66.	1866–67.	1867–68.	1868–69.	1869–70.
	£	£	£	£	£
Main Roads - - -	18,182	12,710	15,746	18,840	26,676
Parochial Roads - -	12,464	14,093	13,190	16,579	18,055
	30,646	26,803	28,936	35,419	44,731

Owing to the extreme severity of the weather, heavy rain having

fallen with but little intermission from the month of May to the end of the year, the sum expended for the maintenance of roads and bridges (18,447*l.*) was in excess of the estimate for the financial year 1869–70 by 1,652*l.*, and the cost per mile was 26*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*, whereas the cost per mile in 1868–69 was only 19*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* The great traffic in logwood which had sprung up within the last two years had a marked effect in increasing the cost of maintenance. This traffic is carried on in all weathers; and when there has been a long continuance of rain, the heavily-loaded carts do much damage to roads not specially constructed to withstand such traffic.

The sum expended on the construction of new roads and bridges during this year was 8,516*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*; and the principal works of this nature were the following:—

The new road to connect Annotto Bay with Port Maria was completed.

The road from Kingston to Morant Bay was diverted at a point near to the White Horses, by which a steep and dangerous hill is avoided.

The grand interior road through St. Ann and Trelawny (of which the parochial system has been relieved, the line having been assumed into the main road system) made favourable progress towards the condition proper for a main road; and improvements were made in some dangerous parts of the road across the Island from Kingston to Annotto Bay.

Explorations were continued as far as practicable, along an intended line of bridle road between the Bogue Hill in St. Elizabeth and Coxheath in Trelawny. This line will connect, where the Island is broadest, the roads on the south side of the central ridge of mountain with those on the north side. It is confidently expected that a practicable line will ultimately be found; but from the nature of the mountainous and jungly country through which the line passes, the work is one involving much time and labour. A new engineer for the Western District has arrived from England, and the work will now be prosecuted more steadily.

The bridle road from Ulster Spring, a place near the centre of the Island, to join the last-mentioned line near Troy, was also progressing favourably; though much damage had been done to it by the continuous heavy rains, one landslip alone carrying away 65 chains of the road in a moment.

The construction of the new road from Free Town on the Vere Road to Rules Pen on the main road from Kingston to Manchester, was commenced under contract; and some progress was made with the road between Milk River and the old toll gate on the same main road to Manchester; though here, as elsewhere, the bad weather (coupled with the logwood traffic) had been much against systematic road making.

The most important work set on foot during the year was the Rio Minho, or Dry-River Bridge, on the main road from Kingston, westwards, for which in the course of the year the drawings were completed; the iron was ordered from England, and a contract was entered into for the earthworks and masonry, on which a commencement had been made before the year closed. At the present date the

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ironwork has arrived, and great progress has been made with the work, which will be reported next year.

This important work is estimated now to cost 16,207*l.*; of this amount 8,250*l.* is a debt due by the chest, being the balance of a loan raised for the purpose of bridging this river, under a law passed in 1864 by the House of Assembly. A commencement was made under the late Government, and 5,810*l.* were spent on iron girders, which it is now found cannot be used for this bridge; and on the land and some works, most of which was money thrown away. Financial necessities stopped the work, not unfortunately, I believe; and thus about half the cost will be met in the payment of a debt.

The Nightingale Grove Bridge, an iron structure of 70 feet span, on the same line of main road, was completed this year, and was opened for traffic.

The Barton Bridge near Black River was reconstructed; and several bridges of less importance were built or reconstructed.

The parochial roads received this year an important increase in the fund available to them. These roads, which are of great local importance, are on the whole well and cheaply managed by the gentlemen composing the Parochial Road Boards. Formerly four-fifths of the horse and wheel tax, now designated "Parochial Road Tax," were appropriated to these roads; the remaining fifth being taken as a contribution to the main roads. Last year the whole expenditure upon main roads was defrayed from the general revenues; and thus one-fifth of this tax was left in the hands of the Executive Government to be granted for new roads, bridges, and other important works for which the funds of the several parishes may be insufficient. The grants are not made rateably, but for whatever parochial works may be found most useful all over the Island. In the financial year 1869–70 this one-fifth amounted to 3,999*l.*, whereof 1,100*l.* were granted to parishes for particular works, leaving a balance of 2,899*l.* to be carried to the credit of this extra fund in the current year. This measure has been a most acceptable boon to the country districts.

During the financial year 1869–70 there was spent in the repair or construction of works other than roads and bridges, 38,188*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* This sum was expended in the following manner:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
On churches	2,591	0	6
On hospitals	8,604	8	11
On prisons	1,299	5	10
Court-houses	607	3	2
Other works	25,086	13	11

Churches.—A new church was commenced at St. Ann's Bay, and was progressing favourably. The erection of this building was undertaken in order to pay a debt due by the chest to the congregations. Under statutes passed in the years 1862 and 1863 by the late Legislature, a loan of 2,000*l.* had been raised for the purpose of building a new church at St. Ann's Bay, but owing to the financial pressure the work was not undertaken at the time. As soon as a surplus made it possible to do so, the money due was made available.

Public Hospital.—Alterations and additions to the Public Hospital

in Kingston, formerly determined upon, were carried on during the year. A new Surgical Hospital, containing an operating room, two wards, and a matron's quarters, was erected.

Lock Hospital.—This building was completed during the year.

Lunatic Asylum.—Two extensive new ranges (one for males and one for females), containing each thirty-two separate rooms, were completed.

Union Hospitals for Coolies.—The Union Hospitals at Chapelton, in Vere, and at Annotto Bay, were completed.

Prisons.—Improvements were made at the Middlesex and Surrey County Gaol, and a wharf was erected at the General Penitentiary to facilitate the landing and shipping of materials.

Treasury and Audit Departments.—The old Treasury building in Harbour Street, Kingston, was repaired, altered, and fitted up as convenient offices for the Treasury and Audit Departments.

Customs Department.—Additional warehouses were erected in Kingston, and various other improvements were made in the buildings of this establishment. The premises at Falmouth, known as Thorpe's Wharf, were purchased and fitted up as Customs offices and public bonding warehouses.

Falmouth Harbour.—The rock called the "Weather Triangle," referred to in my last Report, which formed the main obstacle in the entrance to this harbour, was entirely removed in the year under report. Where the rock stood there is now a depth of 26 feet of water, shallowing to 22 feet near the reefs at the side of the channel. To obtain this depth of water 1,408 tons of rock had to be blasted and carried into deep water. In addition to three large buoys placed to mark the extremes of the reef on each side of the entrance, five permanent and conspicuous marks of iron have been erected on shoals inside the harbour, which formerly were sources of much danger and annoyance to ships taking up their berths. The harbour is now considered by the shipmasters frequenting it easy and safe. The whole cost of these operations has been only 771*l.*

The erection of the new market for Kingston made fair progress during the year. The sea-wall was nearly completed.

The works and property of the late Sligo Waterworks Company in Spanish Town were purchased by the Government, at the sale of their property consequent upon the enforced winding up of the Company, which had ceased to supply water, and was helplessly insolvent. The winding up was at the suit of Government. Credit was given to Government for about 720*l.*, being the dividend due upon a loan of 12,000*l.* which was made to the Company by the Colony in 1834. New machinery has been ordered from England, and a new reservoir was in course of construction, for the purpose once more of supplying water to Spanish Town.

District Courts.

The business transacted in these lately instituted courts during the year, as compared with the preceding year, is shown in the following Table :—

	1869.	1870.
Criminal trials - - - -	1,256	1,712
Small causes - - - - -	3,133	5,509
Equity cases - - - -	2	10
Cases under the Land Law - -	133	137
Insolvency cases - - - -	9	147
Probate cases - - - - -	35	43
Amount claimed - - - -	22,910	29,070
Paid into Court before judgment -	920	920
Judgment obtained for - - -	11,386	14,919
Costs - - - - - -	2,109	2,774
Court fees - - - - -	2,154	3,225

The increase in the business of these courts on all their sides is satisfactory, as showing the confidence of suitors, and the greater depth to which the influence of an effective administration of justice in a practical spirit is penetrating.

Botanic Gardens and Plantations.

In consequence of the development of the Botanic Garden at Castleton, by the introduction lately of a very large number of new species, and the consequently increased requirements of the institution, it was considered necessary to secure the services of a botanical gardener from England, to assist the Superintendent in the discharge of his duties, and to reside at and to take immediate charge of the garden, which is at a distance of about 34 miles from the Cinchona Plantation, on Blue Mountain, where Mr. Thompson, the Superintendent, resides. For this purpose, by the kind help of Dr. Hooker, at Kew, the services of an experienced and highly-qualified gardener were obtained as Assistant to the Superintendent, who took charge of his duties at Castleton in December, 1870.

Upwards of 200 species of plants, new to the Island, were introduced during the year. Amongst these, perhaps, the most interesting were two plants of ipecacuanha, both of which are reported to be thriving. These are in addition to the single rather delicate plant of this species which we before possessed. This druggist's plant has now become of inestimable value as an object of cultivation, from the discovery of the extraordinary properties of ipecacuanha, in large doses in cases of tropical dysentery, in which disease it is now found to act as a specific, much as quinine does in tropical fevers. Two true maugosteens and five choice varieties of pine-apple have been imported during the year; as also four noted varieties of orange, new to the Island. The Bombay grafted mangoes imported two years ago are very flourishing, some of them being already 5 feet high. My belief is that there is nothing to prevent Jamaica becoming, for the quality, variety, and commercial value of its fruit, the most noted spot in the world, when gardening shall be understood, and the value of the art shall be duly recognized here.

Two acres of the Sisal hemp aloe (Agave Sisalana) were planted at Castleton during the year, and a few more acres have been prepared for the extension of this cultivation. A sample of the fibre prepared at Castleton was forwarded to a London broker, and has

been pronounced by him to be of very good quality and colour, much finer and larger than the Sisal hemp imported from Mexico, and worth at the time he wrote about 60*l.* per ton, which price was by 10*l.* to 12*l.* above the ordinary price.

One hundred thousand plants of China grass were advertised for sale during the year, at 10*s.* per 1,000; and applications for about 30,000 plants have been received. It is in contemplation to import a machine for the preparation of the fibre for the market so soon as the Indian Government have awarded their prize for the best China grass machine. If the machine works satisfactorily it is probable that some persons may be found to embark largely in the culture of this valuable fibre.

The famous Jamaica Botanic Garden of ancient times, which was not only of the highest intrinsic value, but also was admirably situated, was sold, I believe, for a trifle, and was broken up a long time ago in some spasmodic fit of false economy. More lately a botanic garden was established at Bath. The site was unfortunately selected, being a long day's journey from the capital. But the purchase in 1859 of Castleton, and its formation in 1863 into a new botanic garden, in substitution for the garden at Bath (finally abandoned in 1866), is said to have been determined upon because of serious damage caused and threatened at Bath by a watercourse. The selection of Castleton as the site of the new garden was also unfortunate, as it is at a distance of 18 miles from Kingston, and it is important to interest the public as much as possible in such an institution as a botanic garden. But the selection having been made, and a large number of plants having been established there, whilst the position, except in respect to its distance from the capital, is unexceptionable, it would have been unwise once more to have thrown away all that our predecessors had done for us by removal to a fourth position. It was determined, therefore, to treat the Castleton garden as a fixture; and as it is not too far from Kingston for a holiday excursion, to go to some little expense in its gradual establishment, in the hope of attracting visitors to what I believe will certainly become one of the most interesting spots in the West Indies. In this direction a commencement has now been made, by the construction of a handsome tank for the Victoria Regia, and of a fernery, &c.

The Cinchona Plantation continues to make progress in a very satisfactory manner. The Cinchona officinalis has now obtained a height of 11 feet, and the other species have increased in like proportion, the circumference of the stems being double what it was twelve months ago.

In 1870 the trees have had to encounter very windy and rainy weather, which prevailed from August to the end of the year. The extraordinary rainfall of 24 inches in 30 hours was noted at the plantation on the 17th and 18th November; and there is reason to believe that the rainfall must have considerably exceeded 150 inches during five months. But the only injury done by this heavy weather has been the loss of from 500 to 600 young trees by a landslip, and some suspension of clearing operations. The year before had been characterized by a very extraordinary drought. The plants, therefore, as the Superintendent remarks, "have thus passed satisfactorily an

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" ordeal of two years, exhibiting the most marked extremes of seasons " to which tropical countries are liable."

During the year 30 acres of mountain land have been cleared and planted out in cinchonas, estimated to number 30,000 plants. A new system of close planting was adopted in planting out this lot, and the result is reported to be in every way satisfactory. The entire area of land planted with cinchonas at the end of the year 1870 is nearly 90 acres; and 80 more acres of forest land have been prepared for planting, which Mr. Thompson hopes to fill before the end of the current year.

I understand that satisfactory accounts have been received of the condition of cinchonas which have been planted at Mount Moses, in St. Andrew, and in the parish of Manchester, by two gentlemen who take an interest in the propagation of this valuable plant.

The Superintendent reports that about 2,000 plants have been raised from seeds of some 12 species of rapid-growing trees, among them several species of the gum-trees of Australia. These trees are of some commercial importance, but they are intended chiefly to afford shelter to the young cinchonas.

The 800 plants of Assam tea planted out in 1869 are in vigorous health.

Owing to the difficulty of procuring seeds in sufficient quantity, only one acre of senna was planted on the palisades; but the plants are growing well, and are yielding seeds plentifully. Some of the patches of senna have been cropped. The cultivation of this plant will utilize the wide intervening spaces between the young cocoa-nut trees, and it is expected to be profitable. Specimens of the first crop are in preparation for transmission to London for examination and report. In this, as in many other articles of produce, the only difficulty is in the preparation for the market.

Education.

Three hundred and seventy-one schools were in 1870 on the list for inspection, being an increase of 101 over last year.

The Inspector of Schools attributes this very large increase to the liberal encouragement offered to schools by Government of late years; to the abandonment of certain objections in certain quarters to Government aid for schools; and to the assistance afforded at the beginning of the year by opening grants. Of the above number, it was found at inspection time that 42 schools were either not ready for examination or were closed. But 329 schools were actually examined, making an increase of 67 as compared with last year.

There is no doubt that a still greater number of schools would have been ready for inspection this year but for the difficulty of procuring competent teachers. This want is still an obstacle in the way of increasing the number of our schools; but in addition to the private training establishments heretofore in operation, measures were taken this year by the Government, at the public charge, for training additional Normal pupils at the Mico Institution; and a Government Training College at Stoney Hill was established, under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Melville, Manager of the Reformatory at the same

place. Thus, besides the private training pupils, an additional body of 23 young men is now under training for schoolmasters at the public charge; and this system will soon begin to have a telling effect upon schools.

While in 1869 45 schools wholly failed to come up to the lowest Government standard, only 31 so failed in the year under report. The result of the inspection of 1870, as compared with that of 1869, is thus shown:—

	1870.	1869.
First class - - - -	4	3
Second class - - - -	35	20
Third class- - - -	206	173
Total passed - - -	245	196

The second-class schools have thus increased to nearly twice as many as last year, and are 10 per cent. of the whole number of schools inspected; whereas last year they were only 7 per cent. of that number.

There were 53 schools which received half grants. Although these did not quite come up to the Government requirements, such grants were considered to be justified by peculiar circumstances, and by way of encouragement. The results of the last two years have shown the good effects of this exceptional encouragement, several schools having risen to the third, and some even to the second class, which had been at first admitted exceptionally to half grants of this sort.

The total amount of the grants-in-aid made this year has increased to 5,857*l.* from 4,461*l.* in 1869. This increase, which is a little over 31 per cent. upon last year's grants, as the Inspector of Schools reports, "would have been higher but for the prevailing rains, which had the "effect of lowering the attendances, and consequently of reducing the "grants on capitation." Mr. Savage adds, that "it may be worthy "of note, if only as an illustration of the liberal and progressive "tendency of the Government scheme, that the grants this year are "very nearly double what they were for the same purpose in the first "year (1868) under the new regulations."

The Church of England Schools have earned this year 2,115*l.*; the Wesleyans, 989*l.*; the Baptist, 892*l.*; the Moravians, 703*l.*; and the Presbyterian, 388*l.* The grants-in-aid to the several other smaller religious denominations, with two exceptions, have exceeded those of the previous year. The London Missionary Society earned this year 229*l.*, whereas in 1869 only 17*l.* was granted to this body. The school fees collected by all the schools for the year amount in all to 3,785*l.*, showing an increase over the collections of last year of 679*l.*; and these fees, which are insisted upon in aided schools, taken as a whole, fully come up to the Government requirements.

The object of the opening grants, which were introduced last year, is for the purpose of enabling trustworthy managers or teachers to establish new schools in destitute districts. General conditions have been laid down upon which these grants are issued. The schools which receive opening grants are eligible to receive the annual grants, according to Government regulations, after they shall have been in operation three months. These opening grants are paid in

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two instalments—the first being for buildings and appliances, and the second for the teacher's allowance. The second instalment is paid when the Government have been informed of the school being ready to commence school operations. Sixty-four applications for these grants were received from all parts of the Island. The total sum applied for was 2,780*l.*, and the sum granted was 1,250*l.* This aid enabled 24 new schools to come actually under inspection this year.

The Industrial School system must still be considered to be in its infancy; but every effort is made to induce managers to introduce the industrial element into their schools, and to show to parents the usefulness of this method of education. There still continues, however, to be a strong dislike on the part of most of the parents to their children being employed by the teachers in any sort of manual labour; but, as shown by the Government Model School at Port Antonio, this obstacle is not invincible.

I regret to have to report unfavourably of the Government Model Schools at Falmouth and Montego Bay; the attendance at both of these schools had declined considerably before the end of the year. It was considered advisable to close the Montego Bay Model School, and the appliances belonging to it have been handed over on loan to the Wesleyan body, who are establishing a good school at that place.

The Bath Model School, under Mr. Elworthy, is going on favourably. A school museum and a small library have been established there for the instruction of the pupils in general knowledge, and these adjuncts promise to be of benefit.

The Government Model School, which was transferred from Port Maria to Port Antonio at the beginning of the year, and to which I referred in my last year's Report, is, the Inspector of Schools reports, the most hopeful and promising of all the Government schools, and one that is likely to prove of great advantage to the parish. This school is industrial, and all the pupils who join the industrial classes have their school fees remitted, while the rest pay the usual rates. Two workmasters have been appointed to the school, and have proved very serviceable in directing the labour of the pupils.

The total sum expended upon the Department of Education for each of the last five years is as follows:—

	£
1865–1866	3,445
1866–1867	3,987
1867–1868	4,120
1868–1869	6,244
1869–1870	9,190

The amount expended in the year under report was thus apportioned:—

	£
Inspection	1,264
Grants-in-aid	6,531
Government Schools	882
Training students	313
St. George's Chapel School	200
	£9,190

Immigration.

During the year 1870 the following Coolie immigrants were introduced into the Island:—

Males	594
Females	260
Infants	52
Total	906

Applications have been received for 2,287 immigrants for the season of 1871.

The following Table shows the number of immigrants in the Colony at the close of the years 1869 and 1870, who were still subject to the operation of the Immigration Laws:—

	1869.	1870.
Number under unexpired indenture for five years	2,627	3,268
Number who had served their five years' indenture, but had not completed their ten years' industrial residence	3,130	3,105
	5,757	6,373

In addition to the above there was a large but unascertained number of Coolies who, after their 10 years' industrial residence, had remained in the Colony as a part of the general population. An accurate knowledge of the number of this class of immigrants will be gained when the general census for 1871 is taken.

The health of that portion of the immigrant population which is engaged on estates was good during the year, except in the Plantain Garden River District of St. Thomas, where, I regret to say, there was much sickness and mortality.

Hitherto the amount of bounty was fixed at 10*l.* a head, but as this sum is less than the cost of a return passage, and it is desirable to hold out every possible encouragement to the Coolies to settle in the Colony, the amount was increased this year to 12*l.* for adults, male and female, and half that sum for children from 3 to 12 years of age, these sums being found to be within the average cost to the Colony of the back passage.

The immigrants imported in the year 1860 completed this year their term of 10 years' residence. Of the 592 immigrants who arrived in 1860, there were at the termination of their 10 years' residence, alive and eligible for return passages or bounty, 363; deserters or missing, 108.

During the 10 years there had been—

Births	122
Deaths	123

When the small proportion of women to men is considered, these figures speak well for the climate and its suitableness to the Indian

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constitution. Had the proportions of the sexes been equal, it may be inferred that the births would have trebled the deaths.

Of the 363 time-expired Coolies referred to above as eligible for return passages, 261 elected to remain in the Island, and were paid the bounty at the new rate. The remainder returned to India.

By Law 34 of 1869 the Governor is empowered to constitute "Union Hospitals" in any district in place of "Estate Hospitals." The cost of the erection of the necessary buildings, or of their rent, and of the supply of the necessary appliances, is made, in the first instance, a charge upon the Immigration Fund, which is afterwards reimbursed in the form of an annual rent-charge on the employers. The cost of medicines and nourishment for the patients is met by a direct charge upon the employers at a daily rate for each immigrant not exceeding 6*d.* a day. The charge for salaries and allowances to the necessary staff of medical officers, matrons, nurses, &c., is defrayed from the Immigration Fund.

Up to the end of the year under report seven Union Hospitals had been brought into operation, and placed under the supervision of Government medical officers.

They are as follows:—

Estate.	Parish.	Number of Coolies located.	Number of Beds.
Golden Grove	St. Thomas	559	56
Taylor's Caymanas	St. Catherine	111	14
Dundee	Trelawny	132	20
Savanna la Mar	Westmoreland	408	40
Suistead	St. Catherine	80	20
Dry Harbour	Clarendon	286	24
Lionel Town	Ditto	423	60

Some of the hospitals shown above are found to have an insufficient supply of beds in proportion to the number of Coolies for whom the hospital is provided. Arrangements are in progress for erecting additional buildings, and increasing the number of beds at those places. Several Union Hospitals are also about to be opened in other districts.

The establishment of a general "Coolie Depôt" in Spanish Town, as a temporary home or hospital for sick and disabled Coolies who are not provided for on estates or in Union Hospitals, was narrated at length in last year's Report. The number of patients treated at this depôt during the year was 181. Of these—

39 were discharged;
81 recovered;
6 died;
6 were relieved from disease;
49 remaining in depôt on the 31st December.

Of this last number 19 have been returned to India in the course of the current year.

The head of the Immigration Department reports that the conduct

of the Coolie labourers generally was very satisfactory; that a good understanding exists between them and their employers; and that complaints from either side have been remarkably few, and none of a serious character.

Additional vigilance over the rights of the Coolie in relation to his employer, and of the employer in relation to the Coolie, has been the result of the practical working of Law 34 of 1869. While full wages are secured to the Coolies for the time spent by them in labour, a considerable number of them have been convicted for desertion and for refusing to work; there having been 133 convictions for these offences this year, as against none in the preceding year.

Savings Banks.

The number of depositors and the amount of their deposits in the banks not under Government control at the end of each of the last five years is as follows:—

Year.	Number of Banks.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
			£.
1866	8	2,276	56,740
1867	9	2,278	54,807
1868	8	2,524	58,913
1869	7	3,004	74,394
1870	7	2,205	63,486

In the course of the year 1870 the Government Savings Bank, described above under the head "Legislation," was established. The opening of this new institution more than accounts for the reduction of deposits in the private banks, which at the end of 1870 were preparing to close. In all the savings banks, at the end of 1870, the total deposits (79,686*l.*) showed on the year an increase of 5,292*l.* The total number of depositors in all savings banks on the 31st of December, 1870, was thus 2,674; and the total value of their deposits was 79,686*l.*

At the close of last month (30th June, 1871) the value of the deposits in the Government Savings Bank was 66,550*l.*, and in the other savings banks 17,753*l.*; in all 84,303*l.*; a gratifying result, which must be partly attributable to the successful working of this new measure. The number of depositors in the Government Savings Bank at the close of last month was 1,779.

Trade.

The value of the imports for each of the last five calendar years, excluding the value of the railway materials imported in 1868, 1869, and 1870 (amounting to 11,587*l.* in 1868, 10,353*l.* in 1869, and 243*l.* in 1870), is stated below.

	£
1866	1,030,796
1867	859,186
1868	1,012,279
1869	1,214,061
1870	1,300,212

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The improvement in trade shown in 1869 has been well maintained in 1870.

The Act imposing an additional 10 per cent. on the import duties expired on the 31st of March, 1870, and has not been renewed.

The tonnage dues, with the exception of 5*d.* a ton for lighthouse dues, ceased at the same time to be levied. The only impost on vessels arriving here now is the above small charge for lighthouse dues, and a charge for admeasurer's fees when occasionally the tonnage of a vessel has to be measured. The old tonnage duties were 2*s.* 4*d.* a ton on ocean-going, and 3*s.* 4*d.* a ton on coasting vessels, with extra dues on such vessels as entered certain north side outports. They were not a trifling impost, as they used to amount to a sum equal to from 6 to 7 per cent. of the amount of import duties, and to exceed considerably half the amount of the export duty levied for immigration purposes, a duty which, though in a manner self-imposed, for an important object, not being concealed in freight, as was the tonnage duty, is keenly felt. But it is not necessary for me to enlarge upon the argument, that whatever reduces the cost of freight, especially of export freight, is an advantage to the Colony. Consumers of imports must benefit, though they cannot trace their gain in figures, and I have not a doubt that in this direction the effect of the measure is already traceable in the books of all producers of exports.

With reference to the exemptions from import duty alluded to in my last year's Report, the following Table of the value of articles imported free for agriculture or other industrial objects is given in continuation of the former one.

	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
Iron, galvanized	464	1,238	1,985	1,902	3,142
„ other manufactures	638	3,184	2,041	1,215	3,041
Machines, horse-power	5,186	6,879	8,023	6,644	7,139
Mills	1,722	1,072	1,882	3,822	3,434
Pans for boiling sugar	1,427	603	984	2,409	4,676
Pipes for fluids	28	225	1,090	760	1,502
Railway wheels	nil.	nil.	11,587	10,353	243
Shooks of all sorts	23,580	18,021	18,981	16,404	11,677
Stills	211	559	1,174	2,977	1,698
Steam engines	nil.	101	3,046	6,904	5,460
Wood hoops	2,346	1,225	2,773	2,264	2,981
„ staves	1,241	5,587	6,418	3,847	3,823
Miscellaneous	851	858	2,719	2,004	4,053
	37,694	39,552	62,703	61,505	52,869
Deducting railway material			11,587	10,353	243
			51,116	51,152	52,626

The value of the exports for the last five calendar years was as shown below :—

	£
1866	1,152,898
1867	1,045,094
1868	1,138,804
1869	1,162,769
1870	1,283,026

The exports of the principal staples for the last five calendar years were as shown in the following Table:—

Exports.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
Sugar - - - hhds.	33,637	31,206	36,259	29,268	30,747
Rum - - - phns.	18,754	18,834	20,274	15,270	16,897
Coffee - - - lbs.	8,413,532	6,264,861	7,758,985	5,025,812	9,047,284
Pimento - - - lbs.	4,866,239	7,595,800	4,373,259	6,575,249	5,243,109
Dyewoods - - tons (Fustic and Logwood.)	36,570	48,481	49,129	118,678	84,744
Ginger - - - lbs.	1,550,166	1,728,075	2,036,921	1,261,873	680,492
Arrowroot - - lbs.	70,204	44,566	27,346	11,731	6,343

The sugar crop of 1867-68 was the largest there had then been for six years; that is to say, since 1861-62. That of 1869-70 was below the average. But the crop of the current year is expected to be large. The coffee crop of last year was the largest known for 32 years, that is to say, since 1838. The season was propitious; but there is a steadily increasing cultivation of coffee by the small settlers, which accounts for part of the increase. If the small settlers would pay the same attention to the curing of the berry that is paid by the large coffee planters, the aggregate value of the coffee exported from Jamaica would be greatly increased.

In connection with the decreased exportation of arrowroot which is noticeable in the above return, the subjoined extract from a report by the Collector-General is of interest. "The reduction both in the "cultivation and export of arrowroot may be attributed to the limited "demand for it as an article of commerce; the low prices realized "for it in the English and foreign markets, where it is brought into "competition with the Bermuda article, which frequently quadruples "it in value; and because the ground provisions of the country can "be cultivated by the small settlers with less labour, more ready sale, "and greater profit. Recent quotations of arrowroot in the London "prices current, show Bermuda at 1*s.* 2*d.* per lb., and Jamaica at "$2\frac{3}{4}d.$; this difference is attributable, I am informed, to the greater "care with which the Bermuda arrowroot is manufactured, and not "to any material nutritious superiority which it possesses over Jamaica. "The choice (says my informant) lies in the perfect whiteness of the "Bermuda article as sent home, our arrowroot being equally as "nutritious and as rich in gluten or farina as its rival. Yet ours is "in no favour with the chemist, grocer, confectioner, or hospital prac-"tice; the prejudice being occasioned by its stained appearance when "unpacked abroad; and this appearance has been attributed by a "writer on the subject to the roots being washed in water holding "iron in solution, the stain of which is brought out only as a ques-"tion of time."

The attention of the Island chemist has been called to the foregoing statement, with the view of ascertaining whether, if well manufactured, arrowroot cannot be produced here equal in appearance and value to that of Bermuda.

In respect of several minor articles of export, the returns of the Custom House for this year are interesting, as showing a tendency to

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the development of new industries, requiring little capital, and no extraordinary skill. Lime juice, for which there is now a large demand from the merchant service, and whereof this Island could supply any quantity, after a year's complete neglect has again in 1870 taken a good place amongst minor exports. I observe turtle preserved in tins for the first time figuring amongst our exports.

The steady increase for the last four years, previous to which there is no record, in the export of cocoa (chocolate), the cultivation of which is almost confined to two parishes on the north side, is a very interesting fact.

EXPORT OF COCOA IN CWTS.

1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
133	310	489	644

In very old times Jamaica was celebrated for its cocoa, with which it supplied Europe largely, and its natural advantages for the cultivation of this production (a cultivation I am told more remunerative, and certainly less difficult, than that of coffee) are of course what they were. But so disastrously did the system of the old planters, in the times of slavery and protection, act upon this ancient staple, that it ceased to figure as an export. It is and for some time has been an important and increasing article of cultivation and export in Trinidad. I hope now that in a few years it will become once more an important article of export here; as nothing would answer better the means and objects of the small settler, in the numerous spots which suit the plant.

But the most encouraging event that has occurred in the year under report is the springing up of a new trade with North America in fruits and yams, conveyed in small American schooners, chiefly from Port Antonio, in Portland. Bananas, cocoa-nuts, and oranges were the fruits chiefly exported; but the exports embrace no less than 17 descriptions of Island produce. The value of this new trade from Port Antonio alone amounted in the financial year 1869-70 to 1,985*l.*; and the return trade in imports was valued at 1,625*l.*, yielding, as the Collector-General remarks, "to the island in Customs revenue the "sum of 304*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*, at a small insignificant port, which had for "many years ceased to be of any financial account to the Colony." This young trade is still increasing month by month, and shows a tendency to spread all along the north side of the Island. The collector of Portland writes that it has led to a very large cultivation of the Martinique banana, "not by the small settlers only, but by "others as well." The market for tropical fruits in the northerly part of the United States is unlimited; and certainly fruit, which till last year had no place at all, ought long since to have taken a higher place amongst the exports of this Colony.

Whilst from the neighbouring Colony of the Bahama Islands, pine-apples in cargoes of from 3,000 to 5,000 dozen are annually exported to London and New York to the value of 30,000*l.* and upwards; and whilst it is well known that from Jamaica the English gardener obtained his finest variety of pine-apples; the export of this fruit hence extends no further than the transmission now and then of a

barrel by the mail steamer, as a present to a friend. From Nassau in the Bahamas, pine-apples are shipped in bulk; no attempt is made at selection, and no care is taken in the cultivation to obtain a good quality, or even a large size. Indeed I am not sure that it would be possible to grow a well-flavoured pine-apple in that latitude. The result is a cargo of excessively bad fruit, which costs for its transport from 350*l.* to 500*l.* The actual average valuation in 1864, at Nassau, was 1*s.* 10*d.* a dozen for shipments to the United States, and 2*s.* 9*d.* a dozen for shipments to London, to which place it seems the least bad of two classes of the fruit is sent. In the same year the average selling prices in England of these cargoes is stated at 12*s.* a dozen. From these statistics (gathered from a report of Governor Rawson's printed in 1866) I infer that the cost of transport being not very different from the two places, pine-apples well selected in Jamaica, which would sell in the London market at high prices, could be shipped for not much more than double the Nassau price of such fruits as are shipped from thence; where Governor Rawson says that purchasers for shipments "do not offer a higher price for larger or better "fruit, the grower therefore has no inducement to improve the size "or quality of his produce; he looks to quantity alone." It seems to me strange that commercial men here, and those commercial men in London who are in the Nassau fruit trade, find no ground for action in these facts.

It is my conviction that in oranges, limes, pine-apples, and bananas, all producible here of a quality not to be surpassed in any part of the world; and in cocoa-nuts and other fruits, all producible here in any quantities; Jamaica might become in a very short time capable of supporting an export fruit trade of immense value.

A comparison of the present export of rum with that in the days of slavery and protection, shows that the reduction of quantity has been very much less in rum than in sugar. It is in rum that Jamaica has an advantage over all other cane-growing places, Jamaica rum being worth from two to three times the price of the rum of other places. As first-class rum pays better than sugar, it is an object with the Jamaica planter, in most cases, to make a large proportion of rum, and on many estates as large a proportion as he can without injuring its quality. In 1837-38, from the juice that made 69,613 hogsheads of sugar, 25,380 puncheons of rum were made; being at the rate of about 36 puncheons to 100 hogsheads. In 1869-70, from the juice that made 31,066 hogsheads of sugar, 17,161 puncheons of rum were made, being at the rate of about 55 puncheons to 100 hogsheads. The average make of rum now is greater positively than it was from 20 to 30 years ago, when the average make of sugar was by one-third and more as much again as it is now. I look upon this result, which is very creditable to the skill of the Jamaica planter, as being a triumph of free trade, and sound principles of taxation. The English tax on sugar is so contrived as to discourage the making of good and high-priced sugar. The English tax on rum is such as to leave the manufacturer to make whatever quality of rum he finds most profitable, without imposing on him a penalty for not making bad rum. Consequently the Jamaica planter, whilst still making low and cheap sugars, makes exactly the same sort of rum he would make if that

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spirit were free of all duty at home. The result is the finest rum in the world, and the most profitable manufacture in the Colony.

The following Table, showing the number and tonnage of British and foreign vessels that cleared from Jamaica during each of the five years, affords a gratifying proof of an increasing trade.

Year.	British Vessels.		Foreign Vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1866	411	136,629	82	26,249	493	162,878
1867	379	119,510	134	42,550	513	162,060
1868	390	108,666	158	48,518	548	157,184
1869	512	145,892	238	70,936	750	216,828
1870	482	155,398	219	60,358	701	215,756

I may mention that it is necessary, in dealing with Jamaica statistics, to be careful to distinguish between the calendar year and the financial year. The returns for the Blue Books, in respect of everything except finance, have been prepared hitherto for the calendar year.

Crime.

The criminal returns for 1870 show a decrease both in apprehensions and in imprisonments, as compared with the preceding year; the apprehensions having fallen from 16,480 to 13,620, and the imprisonments from 2,978 to 2,902. From the details of the apprehensions, however, it appears that the summary arrests on view effected by constables in 1870, largely exceeded those of 1869; there being an increase of 52 for felonies and misdemeanours against the person, of 204 for felonies and misdemeanours against property, and of 230 for miscellaneous misdemeanours.

The following Table affords a summary of the information on this head:—

Offences.	Apprehensions and Summonses issued.		Convictions in the several Courts.	Commitments to Prison.	
	1869.	1870.	1870.	1869.	1870.
Felonies against the person -	97	125	71	50	67
Misdemeanours ditto - -	2,838	2,445	1,956	333	384
Felonies against property -	4,748	3,714	1,281	1,176	1,068
Misdemeanours ditto - -	2,532	1,935	1,061	701	650
Miscellaneous misdemeanours	5,664	5,124	3,016	494	556
Breaches of revenue laws -	439	184	91	8	13
Military and naval offences -	162	93	35	216	164
	16,480	13,620	7,511	2,978	2,902

The judicial fines paid in the year amounted to 1,520*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*

The following Table shows the sentences to imprisonment passed on conviction for the larceny of growing crops, and the cognate offence of theft of small stock:—

	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
Larceny of growing crops—1st conviction -	457	381	409	562
Ditto—2nd or subsequent conviction - - -	269	192	167	118
Larceny of small stock - - - -	116	83	113	107
	842	656	689	787

It will be observed that in 1870 there is a considerable increase in the convictions for larceny of growing crops. It does not necessarily follow that there has been an increase in the number of these offences. I have no reason to believe that there has been any such increase. The convictions of old offenders in this line are greatly reduced. I have no reason to suppose that the fact of a previous conviction has been more frequently overlooked in 1870 than in previous years.

Doubtless with a more perfect system of registration of convictions (which it is hoped will be attained), some of the cases treated as first convictions would have been transferred to the list of repeated convictions. But this will be equally true of previous years. So far as this decrease of repeated convictions goes, I know of no reason for doubting that the large reduction shown in 1870 is a satisfactory feature.

Inquiries are in progress into the system adopted for ascertaining before the trial of every prisoner charged with an offence for which a second conviction is punishable with whipping, whether he has been previously convicted of such an offence; with a view to improving the system pursued for obtaining such information, and bringing it to the knowledge of the judge before sentence is passed, if such improvement is requisite.

Of the 2,902 persons committed to the several prisons in 1870, 534 had been previously in prison, being a percentage of 18·4 on the total number of committals.

The sentences of juvenile offenders to the Government Reformatory in 1870 were 94, against 56 for the previous year.

This increase is on account of greater advantage, in the case of juvenile offenders, being now taken of the Reformatory by the magistrates than was generally taken some time ago. This may be partly the consequence of a Government circular on this subject issued after the Reformatory became a Government institution.

The Habitual Criminals Law passed in 1870, as above noticed in this Report, was not brought into operation within the year.

A detective branch of the constabulary has been constituted, and placed under the immediate superintendence of an officer selected for the purpose from the London detective police. The care of the register of habitual criminals has been entrusted to this officer. But this branch of the constabulary was not fully constituted until after the close of the year 1870.

Agricultural Statistics.

Of the total acreage of the Island (estimated at 2,720,000 acres), 523,806⅛ were assessed as under cultivation in 1870, against 492,246

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for the previous year. There is no doubt that the area of cultivation is annually increasing to a material extent; but this increase of 31,560 acres within the year cannot be relied on as accurate. It is doubtless in some measure due to improvement in the department of collection. On the whole, however, I believe that the above statement of the cultivated acreage in 1870 may be taken as a fair approximation to the truth.

Quit rent was paid on 1,308,580⅛ acres of uncultivated land in the year 1870; the number of acres on which the same tax was paid for the preceding year being 1,138,205⅜. The remainder of the uncultivated land on which quit rent has not been paid consists of unpatented land (mostly of little value) and abandoned properties.

The number of acres reported to be under each description of produce for the years 1869 and 1870 was as follows:—

	1869.	1870.
Sugar cane	47,440	47,699¼
Coffee	16,617	18,599⅞
Ginger	150¼	106
Arrowroot	65¼	49¼
Corn	760	549¾
Cocoa	91¾	20½
Cotton	3	6
Tobacco	45½	45¾
Pimento	5,851½	6,902
Ground provisions and garden vegetables	39,224½	39,287¾
Guinea grass	110,705½	119,450¼
Common pasture	222,790¾	225,193
Common pasture and pimento	48,501½	65,896¾
	492,246½	523,806⅛

There is no doubt that for some years past the attention of sugar-planters here has been given rather to improvement of cultivation, than to increase of acreage under cane. And I believe that within the last few years the improvement in cultivation, manufacture, and general management, has been marked, much to the advantage of the planter. Nevertheless the acreage of cane cultivation has slightly increased. The loss by the small and unprofitable sugar estates thrown out of cultivation has been somewhat more than counterbalanced of late years by the increase of profitable cultivation. In the way of every sort of improvement there is still very much to do here; but there is certainly a manifest and increasing tendency in this direction.

The Collector-General guesses the consumption of sugar within the Island at about 6,000 hogsheads. About this quantity, therefore, may be added to the quantity exported in any year, in order to estimate the actual produce of the year. The average export of late years may be taken at nearly 32,000 hogsheads. This calculation would give about three-quarters of a hogshead as the average produce in sugar of an acre of canes in this Colony. The extreme smallness of this return is owing to the system of more or less permanent rattooning practised in several parishes, where on some estates a complete field of yearling plants is hardly ever to be seen; the plants that fail being

replaced yearly, plant by plant. Of course the produce is very small; but so also are the expenses and the risk; and it is the opinion of some that the financial result of this cheap system (which avoids the chance of the loss of a field of young plants from a drought) is good. However that may be, the practice greatly reduces the average produce of an acre of cane throughout the Colony.

The coffee cultivation of small settlers is certainly increasing, though probably not so much as 1,982⅞ acres in one year.

Pimento must be actually increasing, for it plants itself in land left to nature; and when it comes to some years of age, on the mere cleaning of the ground of bush, the best of all the natural grasses in the Island springs up spontaneously around the pimento trees; and the pasturage, which was worthless, becomes valuable. Thus the great fall in the price of this fine spice, has not made the pimento tree valueless.

A fair degree of reliance may be placed on the aggregate of the miscellaneous sorts of produce raised by the negro settler, as shown above. But no reliance can be placed on the particulars. Thus it is certain that the area in cocoa has not diminished in 1870. But the returns would seem to show the destruction of more than three-fourths of the trees. The explanation, I believe, is that 1870 was a very moist year, and 1869 a very dry year. In the one year many cocoa plants must have stood alone on the ground, which therefore could only be declared to be in cocoa cultivation. In the other year the ground around the permanent plants would be stuffed as full as it could hold with every sort of annual produce, in negro fashion, and might figure in the returns under any one-named sort, for the rate of property-tax is the same for all, cocoa included.

Legislative Council.

Two unofficial members were appointed to seats in the Council during this year. Mr. Robert Nunes, Custos of the parish of Trelawny; and Mr. Charles Royes, Custos of the parish of St. Anns. The appointment of these two gentlemen makes the number of unofficial members six; the full compliment under the present Constitution.

The official members at present are five. The full complement of official members is six.

Health.

The Island was healthy throughout the year. The superintending medical officer reports as follows:—

"The general health was, on the whole, very good; no form of epidemic disease having prevailed at all extensively. Cases of yellow fever were admitted into the public hospital throughout the year, but the disease was not of a malignant type.

"The subjects of this malady, with two or three exceptions only, were newly-arrived European sailors. The resident population was scarcely at all similarly affected. During the first six months of the year, vessels arriving from Santiago de Cuba were subjected to quarantine, on account of the reported prevalence of cholera at and

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in the neighbourhood of that city; and in the month of June a ship arriving from New York with small-pox on board, was detained for 14 days in the quarantine ground off Port Royal, before being admitted to pratique. No manifestation, however, of choleraic disease appeared among the persons who arrived from Cuba, nor did any extension of the small-pox occur."

General Remarks.

The most interesting event of the year was the laying of a telegraphic cable between Havana and Jamaica, whereby this Island is now in telegraphic communication with Cuba, the United States, and Europe. This cable was laid by the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, to whom the powers of the International Ocean Telegraph Company, for the purpose, have been transferred. The cable is landed at Holland Bay, in the parish of St. Thomas, at the east end of the Island, whence there is a land line to Kingston. But for two unfortunate accidents in laying the lines, we should ere now have been also in telegraphic communication with the Isthmus of Panama by one line, and with Porto Rico and the chain of windward and leeward West India Islands by another.

Towards the end of the year, the services of a civil engineer, who has acquired experience by service on the vast irrigation works of India, were obtained to make the survey, plans, and estimates for an irrigation canal from the Rio Cobre through the Spanish Town and Old Harbour savannahs, which I believe form the most arid plain in the Island. If it be permissible to name so very small a thing in the same sentence with so very great a thing, I may describe the canal which is designed as being a Ganges Canal upon an exceedingly miniature scale. The head works will be within a narrow rocky gully from which this small river debouches upon the plain. It is believed that there will be more than water enough for 25,000 or 30,000 acres of land, under any sort of cultivation, including sugar-canes. But the description of this project will find a place in next year's Report.

The perfect tranquillity of the Colony was undisturbed. On three occasions it was considered advisable, by way of precaution, to secure the presence of parties of constabulary at the execution, by officers of the district courts, of writs for the dispossession of squatters. But no resistance was attempted, and in every instance the writs were quietly executed.

(Signed) J. P. GRANT.

31st July, 1871.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor CAIRNS to the Officer Administering the Government of Jamaica.

(No. 39.)

SIR, Government House, Belize, March 27, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1870.

Taxes and Duties.

1. These were the same in their nature and amount as the taxes and duties levied throughout 1869, with two exceptions—a remission in the one case, by the expiry of the Land and Property Tax Act on the last day of that year; and in the other case a reduction, by the import duty on unrated articles being lowered from 8 to 4 per cent., with effect from the 1st of August, 1869.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The gross revenue of the year was $165,154 60c., or 33,030*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*, being a decrease of $17,994 50c., or 3,598*l.* 18*s.* on the previous year. The explanation is to be mainly sought in the abolition and reduction of the taxes and duties above referred to, and, in the case of the excise duty on spirits, in a change in the manner of dealing with spirits manufactured in the Colony, and brought for export to Belize. Until August, 1869, an excise duty was levied, and a drawback allowed upon the export, whereas such spirits may now be entered for export without paying duty.

3. The noticeable items of increase were import duties and immigration, the latter representing the recovery of arrears due to Government from employers of immigrant labour.

4. The gross expenditure of the year was $131,100 50c., or 26,220*l.* 2*s.*, being less by $20,917 70c., or 4,183*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*, than that of the previous year. The chief items of decrease were the mail service (head of expenditure "Post Office Department"), military expenditure, special grants, light department, and the pay of the Immigration Agents. With regard to the decrease in the cost of the mail service it is to be explained in this way—a new contract for the conveyance of the European mails between New Orleans and Belize took effect from May last, at the rate of $15,000 a year; the latest previous contract (for the service of the same line) having been at the rate of $24,000 a year; and of this lower subsidy, one month's allowance was forfeited for non-fulfilment of terms. It may parenthetically be added, that the contractors have complained to me of being subjected by their engagement to a constantly recurring loss. The contract terminates in the present year (1871). The military expenditure, had it provided for the reduction of the debt to the War

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Department, ought properly to have been, at the least, as great as in 1869, as the payment then made represented a certain provision in partial adjustment of the Imperial claim, and left 6,945*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* still due (vide last year's Report). The finances would not, however, admit of any reduction of the debt being effected; and further liabilities were contracted in consequence of the frontier, north and north-west, being agitated by fresh alarms. The item of "special grants" represents sums of money *specially granted* by the Legislative Assembly, and has necessarily varied in amount from year to year. In 1870 it included a refund of tonnage dues to a steamer, and a small vote to a medical practitioner for services rendered during a visitation of cholera. In the light department the saving was effected through the adoption of a more economical method of obtaining supplies of oil. The decrease upon the last item, that of immigration, arose from the fact that all payments on account of this head of service were discontinued when the indentures of the Chinese immigrants expired, as they did in June.

5. The items of increased expenditure were mainly (1) those connected with the disturbances on the frontier, such as providing barrack accommodation at Corozal, and (2) a considerable outlay by the Commissioners of Roads (beyond Belize) as compared with 1869.

6. It is creditable to many of the departments of the public service that there should be found in the comparative yearly statement of the Colonial expenditure such satisfactory evidence of a general desire to transact their business with a careful regard to the avoidance of waste, and I am glad of the opportunity of thus stating, that to my own knowledge this course has been taken without impairing their efficiency, or otherwise giving rise to inconvenience.

Public Debt.

7. The nature, the then present state, and the prospects of the several items of this debt were fully explained in my earlier Report, and one of them has already been referred to in the present paper in relation to the Colonial debt to the War Department incurred in and from 1867, and accruing at this time. Of the original debt of 19,800*l.* on account of the town of Belize improvement loan, the sum of 2,776*l.* 8*s.* was repaid in 1870, the amount of the loan for which the Colony was still liable at the close of the year standing at 13,040*l.* 16*s.* Of the original debt of 16,550*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* on account of the immigration loan, no part has yet been repaid. The debt to the General Post Office continued to be discharged, by arrangement, at the rate of 1,000*l.* a year, from the moiety of the subsidy contributed by the Imperial Government in aid of the conveyance of the mails between the mother-country and Belize, viâ the United States. The moiety during 1870, under the new contract, was as nearly as possible 1,600*l.* a year.

Legislation.

8. Several Acts of importance were passed in 1870. Among them an "Act to Amend and Consolidate the Law relating to Quaran-" tine," an "Act for the better government of the Common Gaol,"

and an "Act for the better management of the Public Hospital, "Poor House, and Asylum."

Works and Buildings.

9. Very marked progress was made with the erection of the masonry wall to enclose the gaol, so that I fully expect that this long-contemplated work will be completed within the next few months. A good temporary barrack to accommodate 50 men was built at Corozal, where a garrison was again placed. The barrack building has been so substantially constructed that it ought to last, with very trifling repairs, for at least ten years to come. Useful work was done in extending and improving the country roads, although much remains for execution in future years—the population being widely scattered, the country thinly peopled, and the river in the wood-cutting days of Honduras having answered every purpose of a highway for conducting the timber from the bush to the wharves. Beyond necessary repairs to sundry public buildings, no other works were undertaken, the state of the revenue not admitting of any heavy outlay.

Imports and Exports.

10. The value of the imports for the year was 184,337*l.* 12*s.*, being an increase of 33,148*l.* 16*s.* as compared with 1869, and of 6,653*l.* 18*s.* upon that of 1868. Of the total value, the imports from the United Kingdom amounted to 131,348*l.* 4*s.* 0½*d.* as against 95,737*l.* 2*s.* 8½*d.* in 1869, and 105,099*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* in 1868. The value of the exports was 171,987*l.* 11*s.* 5½*d.*, being less than in 1869 by 3,045*l.* 8*s.* 6½*d.*, and in 1868 by 31,671*l.* 9*s.* 0½*d.* Of the total value, the exports to the United Kingdom amounted to 79,925*l.* 2*s.* 5½*d.*, as compared with 91,788*l.* 8*s.* in 1869, and 115,481*l.* 12*s.* in 1868. The excess of imports over exports was 52,989*l.* 7*s.* 11½*d.* The intercolonial trade of Honduras is insignificant; not so its trade with the adjoining Republics, including Mexico and the United States, the imports from those countries being valued at 52,955*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, of which the United States contributed by far the largest share, the figures being 45,586*l.* 16*s.* 5½*d.* In 1869 they were 46,257*l.* 9*s.* 8½*d.*, in 1868, 62,246*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* The exports to the same countries amounted in value to 87,358*l.* 1*s.*, and to France to 4,622*l.* 8*s.*, the foreign export trade showing a balance of 39,025*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* over imports in the Colony's favour, and being of greater value by 4,113*l.* 9*s.* than in 1869, although less by 819*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* than in 1868. The order of custom was (1) Spanish Honduras for exports valued at 38,753*l.* 10*s.*; (2) the United States, 32,169*l.* 8*s.*, against 17,166*l.* 8*s.* in 1869, and 20,085*l.* 12*s.* in 1868; (3) Guatemala, 7,666*l.* 3*s.*; (4) Mexico, 4,847*l.*; (5) France, 4,622*l.* 8*s.*, and (6) Nicaragua, 3,922*l.* Of the articles of export bonâ fide the produce of the Colony, sugar rose to 1,371 tons, from 752 tons in 1869, and 762 tons in 1868; rum to 12,347 gallons, from 4,766 and 3,300 in each of the earlier years; and cedar wood to 91,934 feet, from 37,869 and 88,958; mahogany fell to 1,345,656 feet, from 3,498,391 in 1869 and 3,006,619 feet in 1868; logwood was exported to the quantity of 9,166 tons, being

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about 100 tons less than in 1868, but over 1,300 tons in excess of the shipment of 1869, and commanding a better price; molasses taken by the United States fell from 10,417½ gallons in 1869 and 9,664 gallons in 1868 to 2,440 gallons. The export of cocoa-nuts amounted to 180,263, as compared with 170,078 in 1869, and 306,622 in the previous year. Of fustic but 34 tons were exported, against 66 tons in 1869 and 145 tons in 1868. In lieu of the blank return for those years, rosewood formed an item of export to the extent of 142 tons. Finally, 186 turtle were shipped at the quays, or above the usual number. Summing up the money value of the import and export trade during 1870, the imports specially rated (cattle, cigars, cocoa, coffee, horses and mules, lumber, malt liquor and cider, spirits and cordials, sugar, tea, tobacco, and wines) amounted to 14,090*l.*, and the unrated articles, upon which an ad valorem duty is paid, to 170,247*l.* 12*s.*; and the exports to 69,977*l.* 10*s.* 5¾*d.* as the value of the Colonial produce; and 102,010*l.* 0*s.* 11¾*d.* as that of the imports transshipped as exports, whether first mported from Europe and the United States, and subsequently exported to the Central Republics under the drawback system, or first imported from the latter countries and subsequently exported under the same system to the former. Comparing the value of this branch of the trade with its value in 1869 and 1868, it exhibits an increase of 1,345*l.* 5*s.* 0½*d.* upon the figures of 1869 (100,664*l.* 15*s.* 11¼*d.*), but it is still far short of the value returned for 1868 (134,465*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*). Of the value of the *transit trade*, as applying to merchandise bonâ fide in transit viâ Belize to some other mart, no account can be taken in the Colony. A duty of 50 cents or 2*s.* is levied on every transit package, but the nature of the contents of any such package need in no case be known.

Shipping.

11. The return under this head for 1870 shows the amount of tonnage entered to have been slightly in excess of that of 1869, but greatly below the figures for 1868, and the amount cleared to have fallen short of both the previous years.

	Entered.	Cleared.
1870 - - -	28,102 tons.	26,624 tons.
1869 - - - -	27,792 „	30,324 „
1868 - - -	31,424 „	30,911 „

Grants of Land.

12. There were 166 acres of Crown land sold in 1870 as compared with 42 in 1869. The upset price is at present 10*s.* per acre, but private owners are sometimes ready to accept 5*s.* for country or ordinary lots. No demand exists for this description of property, nor do I see how it is likely to arise, unless the population should be largely increased by some tide of immigration naturally setting in.

Gaols.

13. The number of prisoners confined in the common gaol in Belize at Michaelmas, 1870, was 46, of whom two were whites (males) and

44 coloured (males and females), in the proportion of 41 to 3. The total number committed to this gaol during the whole year was 104, of whom seven were whites (males, and chiefly sailors). The largest number in confinement at any one time was 50. The punishments for offences within the gaol were solitary confinement (36), whipping (7), and putting in irons (3), all being inflicted on male prisoners. No cases of serious illness occurred, and there were no deaths. Strictly penal as distinguished from remunerative labour was not enforced for two reasons: the one, that it was held to be of the first importance to make rapid progress with the construction of the gaol wall by means of the labour of the prisoners; and the other, that it was, as it remains, essential to the health of such a town as Belize that its roads and streets should be constantly repaired, and its drains be deepened and cleansed. To do these things by means of hired labour would involve an amount of expenditure which the Colonial finances will not bear. The returns for the district prisons at Corozal and Orange Walk in the north, and Allpines in the south, serve to show that at the first-named place there were 11 prisoners in confinement at Michaelmas, and that 24, of whom one a female, was the greatest number in prison on any one day. At Orange Walk the figures were 2 and 9, and at Allpines 6 and 7. Prisoners committed for over three months are as a general rule sent to Belize. There were no deaths in the district prisons.

14. Of the graver offences committed in the Colony during the year, a few cases of cutting and wounding may be noticed. It is generally the so-called Spanish or Indian half-breed who resorts to this method of revenge; or else, in the passionate moment of a quarrel, makes as free a use of his macheat (a kind of cutlass) as the Malay man of his kris. Other serious crimes were few; most of the committals having been for larceny or breach of contract.

15. In proportion to their numbers, the Chinese immigrants, of whom not more than 200 remain in British Honduras at this time, were the greatest offenders under both of these heads; but the shipment which arrived some years ago was not, it must be confessed, a fair representation of the agricultural class of Chinese, consisting as it did of seaport loiterers, and vagabonds from Amoy.

Charitable Institutions.

16. The number of cases under treatment in the public hospital, Belize, at the beginning of 1870, was 6, at the end it was 6. The admissions during the year were 207, of which 176 were males and 31 females. Of the patients discharged, 174 were cured, and 14 relieved: 25 deaths occurred. There was but one case of yellow fever treated in the hospital (in January) during the year, and no death from that cause. Of the eight cases of phthisis treated, seven proved fatal; but these were in the last stage when they came in. The negroes, here as elsewhere, are peculiarly liable to this disease.

17. The hospital building is as unsightly as possible, being old and weather-beaten (it is a wooden structure) in all its parts. On the other hand it is well placed, and nothing could be cleaner or more airy than its wards.

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18. The number of admissions to the Lunatic Asylum in 1870 was 5, all of them males. One death occurred, and 4 patients were discharged. There remained in the asylum when the year closed 10 persons of unsound mind—6 being males and 4 females. The number at the same period of 1869 was 10.

19. The poorhouse contained 13 old or infirm persons on the last day of 1870 as compared with 17 in 1869. There were 5 admissions and 5 deaths during the year, three of the deaths occurring among the new admissions; three of the paupers were removed to the public hospital for medical treatment, and one was discharged.

20. Although every attempt is made to provide for the comfort of both lunatics and paupers, the buildings in which they are housed are in the last degree miserable. My Report for 1869 referred to them as a standing reproach to the Colony, and I am therefore glad to be able on this next occasion to announce that there is every prospect of the reproach being removed, not, indeed, by any act of the Colony, for there was no possibility of providing sufficient funds, but by the consideration of the Secretary of State for War, in placing the islet and buildings of Fort George at my disposal, and thus enabling me to make what I trust may prove excellent arrangements at a very trifling cost.

Conclusion.

21. The Legislative Assembly having been dissolved in November, 1869, when within a few days of the completion of its constitutional term of existence, four years, the general election was held in the following month, and the new House met in January, as required by the local Act.

22. Two measures of importance which were brought forward by the elected members, but which for different reasons have not yet become law, occupied the attention of the House during the first session, and one of them during the subsequent sessions of the year. These were a Church Disendowment Bill, and a Bill to abrogate the existing form of Constitution, and to substitute therefor what is known as the Crown Colony system of government. It is probable that the objects contemplated by these measures will be attained within the next few months—a very general concensus of opinion having declared itself in their favour.

23. Frontier disturbances were again threatened, and in consequence of the arrival at Orange Walk and Corozal of an armed body of Ycaiché Indians, the troops which had been withdrawn from the latter town in the previous month were hurried up in April to protect the traders and planters of the Northern District from further molestation.

24. Confidence was soon restored, the Indians having remained in the town for a few hours only, and having recrossed the Hondo without committing any acts of violence of a serious nature.

25. In view, however, of the necessity for assured tranquillity in the district, in order to enable it to proceed with the development of its capacity for growing sugar, it was determined that for the present, at least, two outpost garrisons should be re-established, one at Orange Walk and the other at Corozal. A second company of troops of the

1st West India Regiment, which had been temporarily sent to Honduras, was retained, barracks were built, while concurrently with these expensive but necessary precautions being taken, the Frontier Police Force Act was allowed to expire.

26. The two questions must inevitably be raised, and, if possible, answered before long,—how far the cost of this kind of protection can be made to bear a fair proportion to the means of the Colony to support it, and how far a well-manned and well-disciplined police force, which presumably would be a less expensive force, could be entrusted with the defence of the frontier, would be likely to attract to itself the prestige which is possessed by a company of soldiers, would, in short, have the confidence of the inhabitants, and be respected and dreaded by the Indian tribes.

27. For the first year of the employment of the second company of troops, the Imperial Government undertook to defray the normal military charges,—the cost of such barrack accommodation as might be required for the out-station detachments, as well as of movements within the Colony, not being included in this relief. After the first year, ending 25th May, 1871, and experimentally for two more years, the second company will be furnished, on the further condition of an annual contribution by the Colony of 40*l.* for every officer and soldier of that company stationed at Honduras.

28. A portion of St. George's Kaye, the old seat of Government, was transferred to the War Department during 1870, to be used as a military sanitarium, and English Kaye was given over to the Civil authorities in exchange.

29. St. George's Kaye, at a distance of about 9 miles from Belize, is one of the healthiest spots within the boundaries of this Colony. Formerly, and before the mainland was adopted as the site of the chief town of Honduras, it was a place of some importance; but of late years it is seldom visited except during the hot weather, when families and invalids resort to it for bathing.

30. The indentures of the Chinese immigrants terminated during 1870, when all expenditure on account of their protection ceased. I have elsewhere referred to them in this Report, and will here only state my belief that, in regard to its labour supply, the hope of the Colony ought chiefly to rest upon that natural and spontaneous immigration which should gradually, but constantly, bring into this more settled and law-governed territory the Yucatecans and other neighbouring people, whose lives and property are exposed to such risks and hardships in their own imperfectly-civilized country on our border.

31. This kind of labour costs nothing to import, nothing to supervise, and nothing to protect beyond the general means of protection supplied to all residents of whatever race; and there is none of that restlessness about it which is noticeable in the case of the Chinese,—the Yucateco bringing his family and making himself in every sense of the word at home.

32. The public health was excellent throughout the year, except on some parts of the Hondo, which are never healthy. There can be no doubt, I think, of the superior healthiness of the seaport towns of the Colony over any inhabited district of the interior. The all but constant and often very powerful breeze does for Belize what no

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possible system of drainage could effect, where the land is a dead level, and little better than a swamp. Most of the town-streets are wide and straight, and although there is much that is faulty, and in the present irreparable, about the construction of the canals and drains, and more that is careless or unthinking in the habits of the people—creoles as well as negroes—Belize is probably as clean a capital as any to be found under similarly difficult conditions of drainage in the tropical west. It has a new and bright appearance from the sea, the wooden houses being generally painted or washed in some light colour; and while without the pretensions to street architecture possessed by Kingston (Jamaica), there is none of that fœtid squalor which gives such an uninviting unwholesome look to the sea approaches of that greatly larger and wealthier town.

33. An inventory of the contents, not being private property, of the Government House, Belize, is attached to the Blue Book, as well as a copy of a Report by the Surveyor of Public Works upon the state of the building itself. At the present time it would be impossible to undertake any costly or elaborate repairs.

I have, &c.,

Sir J. P. Grant, K.C.B. (Signed) W. W. CAIRNS.

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No. 3.

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from President CAMPBELL to Governor Sir J. P. GRANT, K.C.B.

(No. 56.) Government House, Grand Turk,

SIR, September 15, 1871.

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward the Blue Book returns of this Colony for the year 1870, together with my Report thereon, also copies of letters from the Colonial Secretary and auditor explanatory of the delay that has taken place in preparing these returns.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) MELFORT CAMPBELL,

Governor Sir J. P. Grant, K.C.B., &c. &c. &c. President.

COLONIAL SECRETARY to President CAMPBELL.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Grand Turk,

SIR, August 12, 1871.

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit, in duplicate, the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1870.

Although completed this year at an earlier date than they have

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May 13, 1871.

been for some time past, still I regret I have not had it in my power to lay these returns before your Honour until now.

From the enclosed letter from the auditor—on whom devolves the compilation of the greater bulk of the Blue Book returns—your Honour will perceive "it was not until October, 1870, that the office "of auditor was re-created, and that consequently three-quarters of "the year had expired without any of the work appertaining to the "office having been performed;" hence the principal delay.

The suggestions contained in the Circular Despatch, dated Downing Street, 7th March, 1871, a copy of which I had the honour to receive from you in May last, and which I duly forwarded to the auditor for his information, are now being acted on; I have therefore every reason to believe that for the future there will be much less delay in the preparation and transmission of these returns than has hitherto been the case.

I have, &c.,

President Campbell, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) ALEXANDER C. LOWE, Colonial Secretary.

SIR, Auditor's Office, Grand Turk, May 13, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this day's date, forwarding to me for perusal (under instructions from his Honour the President) a Circular Despatch, dated Downing Street, March 7th, 1871, having reference to the delay generally attending the transmission of the Blue Book returns, and requesting from me, for the information of his Honour the President, any observations I may desire to offer in explanation of the delay in the transmission to your office of the returns from my department for the year 1870.

In reply, I beg leave to remind his Honour that I was not appointed auditor until the 1st October, 1870, up to which date the office had remained unfilled, and consequently three-quarters of the year had expired without any of the work appertaining to the office having been performed. Since my assumption of the duties of the office, I have laboured diligently to get the work up, and have, moreover, employed a person to assist me.

I am happy to be able to state, for the information of his Honour, that the returns from this Department are in a fair state of progress, and will soon be completed.

Having overcome the difficulties of the first year, I have no doubt to be able in future to have the returns ready within the time prescribed by regulation.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. C. CRISSON, Auditor.

Hon. Alexander C. Lowe,
Colonial Secretary.

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(*Extract.*)

REPORT.

Duties, Taxes, Fees.

The revenue of this Colony is derived from the following duties, taxes, and fees :—

1. Import duties.
2. An export duty of one halfpenny for every bushel of salt exported.
3. An ad valorem duty of 10 per cent. on all wood exported from the Colony.
4. Lighthouse dues of 4*d.* per ton., payable by all vessels entering at any of the ports of this Colony.
5. Auction dues of 2 per cent. on all property sold by public auction.
6. For every licence to retail spirituous liquors, 25*l.* per annum, with a fee of 5*l.* additional paid to the Colonial Secretary, who transfers the same to the Treasury.
7. For every licence to vend wines or other fermented liquors, 14*l.* 10*s.* per annum.
8. For every licence to keep ice refreshment houses, 20*l.*
9. For every pilot licence, 1*l.*
10. A dog tax, 1 dollar and 1 dollar and a half per annum.
11. For every licence to hawk goods, 2*l.* 10*s.*
12. For every licence to deal in old metals, 1*l.*
13. A tax of 2*l.* 10*s.* per cent. on the gross sales of all vessels not registered as belonging to these Islands, but sold within the same.
14. Wrecking licences, according to the tonnage of the vessels so employed, ranging from 10*s.* to 2*l.*
15. Various fees of office paid into the general revenue, and collected by the Colonial Secretary and Registrar of Deeds, by the Judge of the Supreme Court and Ordinary, by the police and assistant police magistrates, by the Colonial Surveyor. Fines from the Supreme Court and fines from the police court, pew rents, postage, and Post Office money order commissions.

Finance of 1870.

The financial results of the year 1870 show a slight falling off in the general revenue as compared with 1869. The total receipts for 1870, including a sum of 391*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* received from the Crown chest in aid of the general revenue, and a sum of 2,000*l.* borrowed on debentures, amounted to 9,504*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, whilst the expenditure was 9,725*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*, thus leaving a deficit of 221*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*; the increased export duty levied on salt last year, mainly saving this Colony from being further involved in debt, which at present amounts to 2,700*l.*, borrowed at 8 per cent., to pay the principal and interest of which an increase on the import duties has been resorted to. The following Tables show the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the year 1870, in comparison with that of last year, 1869.

For the year 1870:—

	£	s.	d.
Imports	3,874	17	3
Exports	1,707	11	7
Other sources of revenue	1,530	3	11
	£7,112	12	9
Receipts from Crown Chest in aid	391	11	9
Borrowed on Debentures	2,000	0	0
Total Receipts	£9,504	4	6
Expenditure for 1870	9,725	18	8
Deficit	£ 221	14	2

For the year 1869:—

	£	s.	d.
Imports	3,736	6	0
Exports	1,379	10	4
Other sources of revenue	2,052	2	8
	£7,167	19	0
Receipts from Crown Chest in aid	461	12	9
Borrowed from Public Bank	700	0	0
	£8,329	11	9
Balance from 1868	662	18	6
Total Receipts	£8,992	10	3
Expenditure for 1869	9,743	19	11
Deficit	£ 751	9	8

Quantity and Value of Salt Exported for 1870.

The following Table shows the amount and value of salt exported in 1870 from the various salt-producing islands forming this Government:—

	Bushels.
Grand Turk	353,336
Salt Cay	286,408
Cockburn Harbour	206,322
Total bushels for 1870	846,066

the declared value of which amounted to 15,134*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, whilst for the year 1869 the amount of salt exported was as follows:—

	Bushels.
Grand Turk	629,068
Salt Cay	377,756
Cockburn Harbour	304,520
Total bushels for 1869	1,311,344

the declared value of which amounted to 26,063*l.* 1*s.*, thus showing how unfavourable in a financial point of view the year 1870 has been

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as regards the value of our sole staple, as compared with the year 1869.

4. The following Tables show the comparative value of the imports from and exports to these Islands during the years 1869 and 1870, giving also the names of the various places with which this Colony has commercial dealings.

IMPORTS FROM

	1869.			1870.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom - -	1,297	7	10	3,396	10	5	2,099	2	7	..	..	
British North America -	481	7	3	1,160	4	7	678	17	4	..	..	
British West Indies - -	2,975	8	0	2,331	17	0	..	..		625	11	0
Foreign West Indies -	8,907	6	2	15,591	18	0	6,684	11	10	..	..	
United States - - -	21,209	12	3	12,853	11	4	..	..		8,356	0	11
Canary Islands and Madeira - - - -	20	0	0	11	8	0	..	..		8	12	0
£	34,873	1	6	35,345	9	4	9,462	11	9	8,990	3	11

EXPORTS TO

	1869.			1870.			Increase.		Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.
United Kingdom - -	36	19	6	..	..		..	..	36	19	6
British North America -	1,150	5	8	885	17	9	..	..	264	7	11
British West Indies - -	2,581	14	3	797	10	4	..	..	1,784	3	11
Foreign West Indies -	5,526	7	5	3,123	0	10	..	..	2,403	6	7
United States - - -	26,072	11	8	13,971	17	7	..	..	12,100	14	1
Central America - -	140	11	8	76	8	2	..	..	64	3	6
£	35,508	10	2	18,854	14	8	..	..	16,653	15	6

Crown Fund.

5. This fund is chiefly formed by a 10 per cent. ad valorem duty on salt exported from these Islands, paid by the pond proprietor in lieu of rent for salt pond property, from which source alone, during the year 1870, the amount collected was 1,572*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, against 2,261*l.* 11*s.* collected in 1869, at the end of which year the balance then remaining, amounting to the sum of 1,523*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*, was carried over to the credit of 1870, thereby increasing the amount for that year to 3,096*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*, to which may be added 147*l.* 13*s.* for sales and rent of Crown lands, &c., &c., thereby bringing up the total amount of the Crown Fund collected from all sources during the year 1870, to the sum of 3,244*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*

Expenditure of Crown Fund.

6. The expenditure of this fund, which has been permitted by Her Majesty's Government to be devoted to works of public utility for the benefit of this Colony, was, during the year 1870, as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Tank at Public Schools - - - - -	60	17	0
Repairs to buildings - - - - - -	592	19	4
Roads, streets, and bridges - - -	146	4	0
Tanks and wells - - - - - -	316	1	4
Salaries and allowances - - - -	544	1	3
Miscellaneous - - - - - - -	1,251	1	6
Total - - -	£2,911	4	5

leaving a balance of 332*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, which was carried over to the credit of the Crown Fund at the commencement of the year 1871.

Debt.

7. The debt of this Colony amounts to the sum of 2,700*l.*, of which 700*l.* was borrowed from the public bank at 8 per cent. in 1869, and 2,000*l.* borrowed on debentures in 1870, also at 8 per cent., and taken up by various residents in this Colony. This debt was necessitated by financial embarrassments in which this Colony has been, and still is placed, owing to our sole staple being no longer in demand in the United States, consequent on the heavy protective import duty in force in that country.

Legislation.

8. Nineteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council in the year 1870, eighteen of which received the Royal assent. Twelve Proclamations were also issued, but as neither the Ordinances nor Proclamations require any special comment, it is superfluous to enumerate them.

Consuls.

9. The only changes during 1870 in the Consular Department at these Islands were the arrival here, in December last, of Monsieur Heraux, Consul for the Haytien Republic, and the absence on leave of Mr. Stewart, the United States' Consul, who has since resigned his appointment, owing to his being transferred to a consular appointment in Europe.

Education.

10. Nothing can be more unsatisfactory than the attendance of pupils at the schools during 1870; this is explained by the poverty of the inhabitants residing at Grand Turk and Salt Cay, caused by the absence of trade, and at the Caicos by the severe drought which reduced the inhabitants to a state of semi-starvation. I issued an order that all fees paid by the parents of pupils should be remitted, hoping thereby to encourage the attendance of the children, but all to no purpose, as at the three salt-producing islands, the poverty was so universal that many of the children were hardly decently clad, and at the out islands their parents employed them in collecting shell-fish, herbs, or anything with which to stay the pangs of hunger, food for the body, under such circumstances, being of far greater importance

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than food for the mind. The outlay of 700*l.* per annum for education seems excessive considering the size of the Colony; but as it is broken up into so many different islands the expenditure of so large a sum is, under the present system, almost unavoidable.

Crime.

11. The conduct of the people generally in this Colony is far better than one would find in an English community of the same number. The only time when they seem completely demoralized and incapable of restraint is on a wreck taking place, but, I believe, a few severe examples made on those individuals who act, in the slightest respect, contrary to the orders of the wreck-master would tend materially to check the existing evil. The following Table shows the number of summary convictions before the Police Magistrate, petty debt cases, and convictions in the Supreme Court, for 1870, as compared with the year 1869:—

Year.	Summary Convictions.	Petty Debt Cases.	Supreme Court.
1869	243	81	5
1870	227	74	7

The following is a return of the average weekly number of prisoners in gaol and their cost of maintenance during the year 1870:—

No.	Cost per head.	Total Cost of each.	Total Cost of whole.
15	Food £9 2*s.* (being 3*s.* 6*d.* per week). Clothing, 15*s.*	£9 17*s.*	£147 15*s.*

Poor-house and Hospital.

12. Thirty-six persons obtained relief at the Poor-house and Hospital during the year 1870, of whom twelve died, and six took their discharge, leaving eighteen inmates at the commencement of 1871. The expenditure for the year 1870 for the Poor-house and Hospital amounted to 491*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, out-door relief 25*l.* 8*s.* Consumption and rheumatism are the prevailing complaints. A few cases of leprosy have lately made their appearance at Salt Cay, for the cure of which, as yet, no specific seems to have been discovered, unless it be the bark of the "cundurango" tree, which grows in Ecuador, and regarding the virtues of which, experiments are now being made in the United States.

Population.

13. The number of inhabitants in this Colony, according to the census taken this year (1871), is 4,723. In 1861 the population was 4,372, and in 1850 it amounted to 2,350, from which figures it will

be seen that of late years the increase of the population has not been so rapid as between the years 1850 and 1861. There is no doubt but that the want and distress lately prevalent here has been the cause of this decrease and has led to emigration.

General Remarks.

14. My Report, as to the state of this Colony for the year 1870 must be, I fear, even more unfavourable than that which I wrote as to its condition for the year 1869. The amount of salt sold and the prices realized for the same both show a considerable falling off for the year 1870 as compared with 1869. I attribute the present depressed state of the finances to several causes:—

1st. The existing protective import duty on salt in the United States, which country is the chief consumer of our sole staple.

2ndly. The late European war, which has caused a considerable amount of tonnage having been diverted to Europe, as provision freights thereto would be more profitable than salt cargoes from this Colony.

3rd. The experimental reduction of the export duty on salt, in the year 1869, at the earnest request and petition of certain residents in this Colony, without the substitution of any other tax in lieu thereof. (This present rate of export duty having been in force during the first four years' existence of this Government, and the five years previous to 1869, during which periods more salt was sold than when such duty was reduced by one-half, thereby showing that the export duty in no way affects the demand for our staple.)

4th. The hurricane, in the year 1866, which swept over these Islands, inflicting most severe damage to every sort of property, and almost ruining the salt pond proprietors.

5th. The rising into existence of new salt-producing localities, which has tended, in a great measure, to lower the price of our salt, and divert the trade from these Islands.

6th. Regular steam communication between St. Domingo and the United States, thereby causing a falling off in our export trade to St. Domingo of dry goods and liquors; which, during the years 1863, '64, '65, '66, amounted to over 80,000*l.* All these circumstances combined have so tended to depress the financial condition of the Colony that bankruptcy seems imminent, and until the trade revives, or unless the expenses of this Government be still further reduced, my yearly Reports as to its condition cannot be regarded in any other light than most unfavourable. In addition to the stagnation in our trade, this Colony, in 1870, was visited with unusual drought, which destroyed the crops at the Caicos, the inhabitants of which place were at one time in a complete state of starvation, necessitating my sending them supplies of rice and corn meal. At Grand Turk even, for a short period, there was not a barrel of either flour or corn meal to be procured, and many of the inhabitants had to resort to the prickly pear buds and fish (the latter not always procurable) in order to preserve life. I may mention that the Government officers fared but little better during such period, owing to the absence of every sort of provision in the stores, the merchants being prevented from importing,

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

as they were unable to collect the amounts owing them, there being no money in the Colony, in consequence of our sole staple being no longer in demand in the American market. I regret I am unable to report much improvement in the state of affairs since that period.

15. As regards taxation in this Colony, which averages about 19*s.* 7¾*d.* per head, I cannot but think that the present system is capable of improvement, though I doubt the advisability of, at present, effecting any radical change. We have here a group of many islands, three of which are solely salt producing, and being some distance from each other, require separate ports of entry at each, with the usual staff of official residents. The other islands that do not produce salt, form a refuge for wreckers, idlers, and squatters on private and Government lands, the productiveness of which is yearly being diminished by their lacking the knowledge necessary to pursue agriculture in a methodical and remunerative manner. There is no doubt but that corn and ground provisions might be raised at the lower Caicos amply sufficient, in ordinary seasons, to supply the markets of the three salt-producing islands, but whether it be owing to the ignorance or apathy of the agriculturists (if I dare venture to distinguish them by that name), they seem to think they have done all that be requisite, if they succeed in procuring provisions enough for the support of themselves and families for a portion of the year, and they are only driven to exert themselves and bring up produce to our markets when they require a few dollars to buy clothes or indulge themselves in the luxuries of spirits and tobacco. Over these poor folks but little supervision can be exercised, and there is no doubt these out-islands are at present a source of weakness to this Government. Attempts have, at various times, been made, by my predecessors in office, to induce these people to locate themselves at one spot and form an agricultural community, but the chances of wrecking, and the facilities which they have of settling wherever they please, free from paying rent, free, moreover, from restraint or supervision of any sort, prove far too attractive for any attempt to be successful to induce them to devote themselves steadily to rearing stock and ground provisions—the consequence is, the three salt producing islands of the Colony are almost entirely dependent upon foreign importation for the necessaries of life, which I regret to say are at present somewhat heavily taxed.

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BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor SCOTT to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 147.)

Government House, Georgetown, October 14, 1871.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Colony for the past year, 1870, together with my Report thereon.

Revenue and Expenditure.

It is gratifying to be able to report that, although no augmentation has been made in the imposts from which the revenue of the Colony is derived, the amount collected exhibits a large increase over that of any previous year. The total revenue of the past year, to which the Report refers, reached the sum of 354,130*l.*, exhibiting an increase of 42,753*l.* over the revenue of the previous year, and an increase of 63,249*l.*, if compared with the revenue collected in 1868. By a reference to the comparative yearly statement of the revenue, it will be seen that of this increase 35,639*l.* is due to the Custom dues, and 6,573*l.* to retail spirit licences. The other items of revenue show only a slight variation from the sums collected under them in the year 1869.

The expenditure of the past year amounted to a sum of 325,855*l.*, being 28,275*l.* less than the revenue, thus leaving a large balance on hand at the close of the year.

Commerce.

Imports.—The value of the imports is given at 1,897,098*l.*, showing an increased value of 324,822*l.* compared with the importation of 1869. Of this increase 237,960*l.* is due to an augmentation in the imports from the United Kingdom; 89,843*l.* in the imports from other Colonies, and 24,711*l.*, in those from foreign States. The value of the imports from the United States is less by a sum of 27,693*l.* than in the previous year, 1869.

Exports.—The exports also exhibit an increase of 219,408*l.*, their aggregate value being 2,383,422*l.* against 2,164,014*l.* of the former year. As stated in a former Report, the industry of the Colony is chiefly confined to the production of sugar, rum, and molasses, the sugar alone forming four-fifths of the value of the entire exports; and from an inspection of the following Table, which exhibits a summary of the exports, compared with those of 1869, it will be observed that the increase in the value of the exports is entirely due to the greater quantity of sugar and rum manufactured; all the other

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articles of export, with the exception of a trifling increase under the head of cocoanuts, showing a falling off:—

	1869.	1870.	Increase or Decrease.
	£	£	£
Sugar	1,545,995	1,803,916	257,921 increase.
Rum	298,537	312,443	13,906 increase.
Molasses	141,012	121,783	19,229 decrease.
Timber	15,014	8,325	6,689 decrease.
Shingles	7,994	5,733	2,261 decrease.
Charcoal	3,993	2,923	1,070 decrease.
Cotton	5,575	1,299	4,276 decrease.
Cocoanuts	2,204	2,488	284 increase.
	2,020,324	2,258,910	238,586 increase.
Exports of minor local products, &c.	143,690	124,512	19,178 decrease.
Total exports	£2,164,014	2,383,422	219,408 increase.

The following tabular statement shows the quantities exported, and the increase or decrease compared with the previous year:—

	1869.	1870.	Increase or Decrease.
Sugar (hogsheads)	76,112	94,945	18,833 increase.
Rum (puncheons)	21,324	27,169	5,845 increase.
Molasses (puncheons)	25,639	17,606	8,033 decrease.

They were distributed as follows:—

SUGAR.

		£
To the United Kingdom, of the value of		1,024,768
„ the United States	„	697,180
„ Foreign States	„	5,082
„ Colonies	„	76,886

RUM.

		£
To the United Kingdom, of the value of		281,267
„ the United States	„	—
„ Foreign States	„	6,463
„ Colonies	„	24,713

MOLASSES.

		£
To the United Kingdom, of the value of		45,180
„ the United States	„	36,489
„ Foreign States	„	15,328
„ Colonies	„	24,785

Compared with the year 1869 there has been a large increase in the value of the exports to the United Kingdom. Sugar exhibits an increase of 211,142*l.*, rum 19,635*l.*, and molasses 34,813*l.* The

exports to the United States, the only other market of note, also show an increase in sugar to the value of 13,035*l.*; but, on the other hand, there is a diminution to the value of 51,747*l.* in the export of molasses.

Shipping.—The return of the number and tonnage of vessels which have entered and cleared during the year does not differ materially from that of 1869. The total number of ships entered was 974, representing a tonnage of 212,631 against 929, equal to tonnage of 198,306 in 1869.

Public Debt.

The public debt, arising from loans borrowed under various Ordinances, amounted to a sum of 582,423*l.* at the close of the year 1870. Of this debt the revenues of the Colony have to provide for the ultimate discharge, by means of sinking funds, of a sum of 257,333*l.*, the balance of 325,090*l.* being composed of sums borrowed on account of immigration, the corporation of Georgetown, &c., the interest and capital of which are payable by the respective parties, the Government having only guaranteed these loans.

During the past year 70,000*l.* of the loan raised under Ordinance No. 8 of 1850, and under the guarantee of the Imperial Government, was paid off, leaving only a sum of 180,000*l.* outstanding, the whole of which will he discharged in the year 1874. A sum of 17,000*l.* was raised under Ordinance No. 9 of 1869, for the construction of public works.

The amount due by planters for advances made on account of immigration is less by a sum of 13,400*l.* than at the close of 1869.

The outstanding liabilities on account of the loans made to the Corporation of Georgetown have also been reduced by a sum of 1,917*l.*

The result of these changes is a reduction in the aggregate debt during the last year of a sum of 67,516*l.* The aggregate amount on the 31st of December last being 582,423*l.* against 649,939*l.* at the close of the previous year.

Immigration.

The extension now taking place in the cultivation of the sugar-cane gives rise to an increasing demand for immigrants. In the season ending the 30th of June, 1870, indents were made by the planters for 5,545 Indian immigrants and 1,870 Chinese; and I may add that, for the season ending in June of the present year, indents were made for no less than 8,235 Indian immigrants and 1,390 Chinese. Owing to the misunderstanding with the Chinese Government, no immigrants are now to be obtained from China, and it cannot be expected that, with every possible exertion made in India, so large a number as that for which the planters have applied could be obtained in any one year. This large demand for labour may, however, be accepted as a satisfactory indication of the progress being made in the production of the one great staple export, upon the prosperity of which the general welfare of the Colony may be said almost wholly to depend.

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The number of immigrants brought from India during the season ending June 30th of the past year was unusually large, being equal to 5,673 statute adults, and exceeding by 1,717 the number obtained in the previous year. The total cost of the introduction of these immigrants was 102,563*l.*, being a mere fraction short of 20*l.* per caput.

Owing to the large number of immigrants who have now completed their industrial residence of ten years, it may be expected that each year a vessel will be required to provide passages for return immigrants, although it is estimated that only about 20 per cent. of the number introduced avail themselves of this right. The ship 'Ganges' left in September with return immigrants on board equal to 373 statute adults. It is estimated that these people had money and ornaments in their possession of the value of 2,420*l.*, and remittances were made to India on their account equal to a sum of 9,870*l.*

At the close of the year the number of immigrants residing on the sugar estates was 49,443, against 44,825 at the close of the previous year. These consisted of 24,909 male, and 9,429 female Indian immigrants; and 4,778 male, and 536 female Chinese immigrants, all under indenture. Those not under indenture were 5,098 male, and 3,359 female Indian immigrants; and 944 male, and 390 female Chinese immigrants.

During the year the following immigrants re-indentured:—Indians entitled to return passages, 1,937; not entitled, 1,895; and Chinese, 1,387; making a total of 5,219. The bounties paid on these re-indentures amounted to the large sum of 54,114*l.*

The average rate of mortality amongst the immigrants residing on the estates was slightly in excess of that of 1869, being during the past year 3·06 per cent., and in the previous year 2·11 per cent. Considering that the rate of mortality is almost necessarily higher amongst those newly arrived in the Colony, and that this swells somewhat the general, or what may be termed the ordinary death-rate, the mortality amongst the immigrants cannot, I would submit, be regarded as unfavourable. The average rate of mortality calculated on the entire population of the Colony during the same period is given by the Registrar-General at 2·90 per cent. I will only add, that great exertions are now being made to improve the sanitary condition of the people living on the estates by the building of new and the enlargement of the old hospitals; by the erection of dwellings on plans which experience has shown to be best adapted to the habits of these people; by greater attention to drainage; and by inculcating greater habits of cleanliness amongst the immigrants; all of which, it may be hoped, will not only promote the comfort of the people, but tend to lessen the death-rate. It is but just that I should state that the Government in these efforts are liberally supported by the Managers.

Public Works.

Under this head a large amount is annually expended, the greater portion of which is for minor works, and repairs to existing buildings, and does not call for any special remarks. Amongst the larger items I may enumerate an expenditure of 4,242*l.* on the continuation of the

sea-wall; 2,996*l.* on building a new police barracks in Georgetown; 945*l.* in providing additional accommodation in the almshouse; and 1,691*l.* on the hospitals. The total expenditure for public works was 22,261*l.*

Under Roads and Bridges the annual expenditure is always small, arising from the circumstance that the system in force in the time of the Dutch is still continued, which requires each proprietor of the estate through which any portion of a public road runs to keep it in repair at his own cost. The system is not one which can be commended. The Government has, therefore, only to repair such portions of the roads as run through public property. The total expenditure incurred did not exceed 1,661*l.*

Legislation.

Twenty-one Ordinances were passed during the past year; of these the following are of most general interest:—

Ordinance 1 of 1870 was enacted for the purpose of preventing the practice of allowing the refuse from distilleries, usually called lees, to flow into and remain in the open trenches, which in this Colony surround and intersect all the sugar estates, a practice which not only created a nuisance but was prejudicial to the general health. By this Ordinance the managers are compelled to carry the lees into the sea or the river, as the case may be; or, where this is not practicable, into lees-ponds authorized by an annual licence. The Ordinance has already proved beneficial, and will, no doubt, gradually bring about a greater abatement of this nuisance.

Ordinance No. 3 of 1870 transferred to the West Indian Telegraph Company the privileges granted, by an Ordinance passed in 1869, to the International Ocean Telegraph Company. Under this Ordinance the Colony pays to the Company an annual subsidy of 3,000*l.* for the term of ten years, on the condition of a telegraphic line being established between this Colony and the United States, and connecting therewith the various West India Islands. I may here state that this work, important both in a political and commercial point of view, is now nearly completed, the only link wanting being between Porto Rico and Jamaica.

Ordinance 4 of 1870, to regulate the practice of quarantine. The object of this Ordinance, a draft of which was prepared by Her Majesty's Government, is to bring into practice throughout the Colonies a uniform system of quarantine.

Ordinance No. 12 of 1870. Arrears of business in the Supreme Court of Criminal Justice have frequently and unavoidably accumulated, and this Ordinance was passed to provide, in some degree, a remedy, by authorizing during any session two courts to be held simultaneously, presided over by separate judges.

Ordinance No. 13 of 1870 to amend and make uniform the promissory oaths required to be taken as a qualification for the exercise and enjoyment of offices and other civil rights. This Ordinance was passed in order to bring the form of promissory oaths in this Colony into conformity with those required by recent legislation to be taken in England.

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Ordinance No. 18 of 1870. This Ordinance was passed to repeal a former Ordinance, No. 10 of 1858, for making provision for the care and maintenance of lepers. The opinion formerly entertained on the nature of the disease of leprosy, presumed that the seclusion of persons afflicted with this loathsome malady was required for the public good. Recent and more accurate study of leprosy has shown that it is in nowise contagious, and the present Ordinance has been enacted to conform to this altered opinion. The Leper Asylum is now placed under the sole control of the Governor, and none can be admitted without his written authority. The asylum, in short, is on the principle of an almshouse, where those who are afflicted with the disease to such a degree as to be incapable of supporting themselves by their own labour, are taken care of and maintained at the expense of the Government. No persons are now admitted except at their own desire.

The other Ordinances relate either to finance or to matters having only a local interest or application.

Pensions.

Two pensions have lapsed by the death of the holders during the year 1870, amounting in the aggregate to a sum of 424*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* Another pensioner has been added to the list, who receives 90*l.* per annum. A decrease of 334*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* has therefore been made under this head of Service.

Population.

The returns under this head give the population ascertained by the last decennial census of 1861, and are of no value in a statistical point of view. The population since that time has greatly changed in many respects by the immigration from India, China, Madeira, and Barbados, but no accurate statistics could be given on this subject; and it is the less necessary to attempt any calculation to estimate the real number and character of the resident population, as the census taken during the present year will, on its compilation, afford accurate and full information on this point.

Savings Banks.

The total amount of the deposits on the 31st of December was 83,454*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*, against 63,305*l.* 17*s.* 5½*d.* on the 31st December, 1869. The number of depositors was 4,792 against 3,774 of the former year. The following Table exhibits the number of depositors and the amount deposited by each class of the population, compared with 1869:—

	1869.		1870.		Increase or Decrease of Deposits.
	No. of Depositors.	Amount Deposited.	No. of Depositors.	Amount Deposited.	
		£		£	£
Indian Immigrants - -	1,622	26,700	2,057	40,928	14,228 increase.
Chinese Immigrants - -	46	1,090	42	1,219	129 increase.
Portuguese - - -	332	9,726	193	8,077	1,649 decrease.
Creoles and others - -	1,774	25,790	2,500	33,230	7,440 increase.
Total - - -	3,774	63,306	4,792	83,454	20,148 increase.

It is a satisfactory feature in this return to find that the Indian immigrant depositors have increased in number, and that the aggregate amount of their investments in the savings banks exceed those of the previous year by a sum of 14,228*l.* The Chinese depositors remain much the same as before, both as to number and the amount deposited by them. There has been a falling off as regards the Portuguese, but this may be accounted for from the circumstance that these people are accustomed to hoard their savings, and then, when sufficient, embark them in some small trade. The number of Creole depositors is greater, and the aggregate sum deposited by them is 7,440*l.* over the amount to their credit at the close of 1869.

Education.

The sum of 16,387*l.* 10*s.* was provided by the Legislature for the support of education, and was distributed as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Queen's College Grammar School - - -	833	6	8
Bishop's College - - - - - - -	200	0	0
Roman Catholic Grammar School - - -	208	6	8
Roman Catholic Orphan School - - - -	104	3	4
Support of training master and pupil teachers -	583	6	8
In aid of repairs to school house and school books	1,541	13	4
In aid of the General Schools - - - -	12,916	13	4

The last-mentioned item is distributed by the Board of Education in the form of grants-in-aid to the schools established by, and under the superintendence of, the various religious denominations, each grant being estimated on the average attendance of the pupils, and the class in which the school is placed by the Inspector at the annual examination. There are five classes of merit, the highest of which receives $8, (1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*), and the lowest $4 (16*s.* 8*d.*) per caput on the average attendance during the year.

The number of schools assisted by the Government was 156, of which 57 were Church of England, 30 Church of Scotland, 5 Roman Catholic, 24 Wesleyan, 27 London Missionary and Congregational, 2 Infant Schools, 4 Estates Schools, and 7 Indian Mission Schools.

The number of pupils on the 31st of December was 15,699, and the average attendance 8,894.

In addition to the above enumerated schools, others have been established by the proprietors or managers on several of the estates for the education of the Indian immigrant children, and it is to be hoped that this will soon become the rule rather than, as at present, the exception. It must be admitted that it is a subject which presents many difficulties; even in those Estates Schools where every exertion is made by the manager, it is difficult to obtain the attendance of the Coolie children, and in those where no such exertion is made the attendance is very scanty. Of the importance of educating the Indian children, rapidly increasing each year in number, and who at some future time will no doubt form a large portion of the resident labouring population of the Colony, there cannot be any doubt, and I am glad that this subject is attracting the attention of some of the largest non-resident proprietors.

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Gaols and Prisoners.

The returns given under this head in the Blue Book, do not convey a correct view of the criminal statistics of the Colony; the classification adopted does not sufficiently distinguish the real character of the offences, nor, in consequence of the removal of prisoners from one gaol to another, can the true number of committals be ascertained. The following statement will exhibit a more correct view of the number and character of the offences committed during the past year :—

SUPREME COURTS.	
1. Committed for trial - - - - - -	392
SUMMARY JURISDICTION.	
2. Petty thefts - - - - - - - -	914
3. Breaches of the peace and assaults - -	889
4. Indecent and abusive language - - - -	251
5. Other offences - - - - - -	563
6. Breaches of Revenue Laws- - - - -	30
7. Merchant Shipping Acts - - - -	66
8. Courts-martial - - - - - -	11
9. Civil process - - - - - -	11
10. Breaches of the Labour Laws by immigrants -	2,222
Total commitments - - - - -	5,349

From this statement it will be seen that the number of committals reached the somewhat high number of 5,349 but of this number 2,222 were Indian or Chinese immigrants committed to prison, generally for very short periods, for being absent from their estates, or neglecting or refusing to perform the quantity of work required under their indentures, and most of whom were committed to the district prisons specially set apart for the punishment of this class of offenders. These offences do not involve any moral turpitude, and, if included in the criminal statistics, give an erroneous impression of the extent of crime. If these are deducted, there remain only 3,127 committals for offences against the general laws; a number which, I think, caannot be regarded as indicating a serious prevalence of crime.

For breaches of the peace and assaults, 889 persons were committed to gaol, and for using indecent and abusive language 251. Most of these offences were committed in Georgetown, and are to be attributed, and especially the latter offence, to the pecu iar character of the Creole population. Petty thefts are also somewhat numerous and, unfortunately, no great disgrace is incurred, in the eyes of the mass of the lower grade of the people, by a crime of this kind. In this respect, and in many other points bearing upon the moral character of the lower classes of the Creole population, there is, it must be admitted, great room for improvement.

From the return in the Blue Book it appears that of the committals 332 were of persons committed once before, 94 twice before, and 64 three times or oftener. These figures must, however, be

accepted with hesitation as being indicative of renewed crime. It is not stated how many of these were Coolies re-committed for breaches the Labour Laws, an offence likely to be repeated by certain incorrigible idlers, or how many for petty crimes. Of commitals to the penal settlement, where the higher class of criminals are sent, it appears that two are classed as having been committed once before, and seven three times or oftener.

Hospitals.

In my Report for 1869 I described the actual condition of the hospitals, and pointed out the improvements that had been carried out since 1864, and how far their construction and management still differed from the principles laid down in the digest of that year. No material changes have been made during the past year which call for special mention.

The daily average in the General Hospital was 388. The total number admitted during the year, including those in the hospital on the 1st of January, was 4,269; of these 1,076 were discharged cured, 2,025 relieved, and 507 died.

In the Seaman's Hospital, Georgetown, the average daily number of patients was 49. The number admitted, including 21 in the hospital at the close of the previous year, was 611, of whom 8 died.

In the General Hospital, New Amsterdam, Berbice, the average daily number of patients was 100. The total number admitted, including the patients in the hospital at the commencement of the year, was 1,099, of whom 130 died. It will be remarked that a few of the patients have been retained in the hospital for long periods, but, as I have on a former occasion explained, this is almost unavoidable.

Lunatic Asylum.

The condition of the lunatic asylum was also fully described in the Report on the Blue Book of 1869.

In 1870 a sum was provided for enlarging the female part of the institution, and it is contemplated to add another wing for the accommodation of the male lunatics; and also to erect an open building, where the patients can find a place for recreation sheltered from the sun. When these are completed the accommodation and general arrangements will, it is considered, be all that is desired.

The number of inmates at the commencement of the year was 107, 54 were admitted during the year; 18 were discharged cured, and 10 died.

Charitable Institutions.

The other charitable institutions supported by the Government are —a leper asylum, containing about an annual average of 250 patients; an orphan asylum, in which there were at the close of the year 146 inmates, consisting of European, Portuguese, East Indian, and Chinese children; and an almshouse for the indigent and infirm, and for persons suffering from incurable maladies. It is a sort of poor-house and infirmary combined. During the past year it was found necessary to enlarge it, and, from a recent visit which I made,

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I find that it is still over-crowded, and in many respects unsatisfactory, and additional accommodation and improvements are urgently required. The number of inmates at the close of the year was 284.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, I will add a few statistics which are not recorded in the Blue Book.

The number of deaths in the Colony was 6,203, which gives, on the estimated amount of the population, a death-rate of 2·9 per centum, being slightly less than that of the previous year. Of these deaths 1,365 were children not exceeding one year of age; 786 of children between one and five; and 266 between the ages of five and ten years. The mortality in Georgetown was 1,502, or 4·29 per cent. of the estimated population of the city.

I have in my general correspondence alluded to the circumstance that many persons do not obtain medical attendance during sickness. From a return made by the Registrar-General, it appears that of the 6,203 who died during the year, no less than 2,877 had no professional assistance. In the country districts, where the population is scattered, and the villages not easily accessible to medical practitioners, the want of medical attendance may be accounted for; but in Georgetown, where doctors are numerous, it is stated that of the 1,502 who died, only 966 received medical advice. Poverty, no doubt, prevents many from calling in the aid of a doctor, but there is reason to believe that others continue to place faith in the treatment of unskilled persons, and sometimes resort to Obeah men. The practice of Obeah is made an offence and punishable by imprisonment, but deeply-rooted superstitions are not quickly eradicated from the African race.

The number of births, exclusive of still-borns, registered for the year was 7,103, of which 3,622 were males, and 3,481 females. There was, therefore, an excess of 900 births over the deaths. Of these births 1,898 were children born in wedlock, and 5,205 born out of wedlock; but it must be explained that in this latter number are included the children born of the Indian and Chinese immigrants. It is a fact, however, that the lower orders of the Creole population look upon the marriage tie with much indifference. It is a remnant of the low morality which prevailed during the times of slavery, and which will cling to many succeeding generations.

Meteorological observations have not for many years received much attention, but an observatory has again been established in Georgetown. The extremes of temperature are not very wide; the lowest monthly average was 77·42° in January, and the highest 81·55° in the month of October. The barometric pressure does not vary greatly throughout the year: the highest recorded was 30.014 inches in April; the lowest, 28,915 inches in December. The Colony being situated out of the range of the West India hurricanes, no sudden or great changes take place.

The rainfall is always an important consideration; the cultivation of the sugar cane depends greatly upon its right distribution throughout the year, and fortunately this may be depended upon with

tolerable certainty. The rainfall of the past year is recorded in Georgetown at 129,142 inches. The greatest quantity fell in the months of January, May, and December, being respectively 35,130, 18,874, and 19,338 inches. The least monthly fall was in March, April, and September, being respectively 2,604, 3,631, and 2,709 inches. BRITISH GUIANA.

It is gratifying that, in concluding this Report, I can remark, as at the conclusion of the former, that the Colony has been favoured with a healthy season, and that the condition of the Colony, regarded from an agricultural and commercial point of view, was satisfactory.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, (Signed) J. SCOTT.
&c. &c. &c.

BAHAMAS.

BAHAMAS.

No. 5.

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir JAMES WALKER, K.C.M., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 575.)

MY LORD, Government House, Nassau, April 3, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Bahamas for the year 1870.

2. In the Despatch which I addressed to your Lordship on the 30th of November last, in connection with the Blue Book for 1869, I brought up my Report on the condition and prospects of the Colony to nearly the close of 1870, and I have nothing now to add except to enclose a copy of the Address with which I recently opened the Legislative Session, and from which it will be seen that our expectations with regard to a more healthy state of the finances have been to a considerable extent realized.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, (Signed) JAS. WALKER.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 5.

Enclosure in No. 5.

SPEECH of His Excellency Sir JAS. WALKER, K.C.M.G., C.B., at the Opening of the Legislature.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: Mr. Speaker and Gentleman of the House of Assembly:

I am happy to meet you under much more agreeable circumstances than existed in the two preceding sessions. The expenditure of the Colony has been brought down to something like an equality with its probable income. The public servants, the pensioners, and the expenses of the several public establishments have been paid up to the close of the year. The Treasury notes, as they were called, have been nearly all cancelled, and the subsidies for the mail service, new and old, have been discharged up to date.

BAHAMAS.

I am happy, too, to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have consented to supplement the Governor's salary so as to maintain it at its former rate. In announcing this concession the Secretary of State was pleased in complimentary terms to express a hope that I would continue in the Government. I should indeed have been very glad to have availed myself of this gracious offer, and to have enjoyed a residence among you unclouded by the circumstances of the last two years, but considerations of health and other private reasons necessitate my retirement, and arrangements have been made for relieving me in April.

Instructions have been received for taking a census simultaneously in all the Colonies in the present year. A Bill has been prepared and will be submitted to you for the purpose.

On submitting the Bill of last year for amending the Quarantine Laws for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure, it was again impressed upon me that it would be preferable to consolidate all the Acts of the Colony on that subject in one general enactment. Believing that you cannot have any objection thereto, a Bill to carry out this suggestion has been drafted, and will be presented to you.

I have been instructed to obtain from you an authority, such as is possessed by the Imperial Government at home, and in most of the Colonies, to prohibit the export of arms in cases of emergency. I see no reason why in this particular the Bahamas should continue to be an exception to the rule which prevails in other places, and I hope, therefore, that looking to what is passing elsewhere, you will relieve Her Majesty's Government from the possible embarrassment which might arise from the absence of such a law.

In concert with my Council I have endeavoured to give effect to the law of last session for improving and extending the mail communication with the United Kingdom and the United States.

Having failed in procuring tenders for the service upon the conditions laid down by the Legislature, or upon terms which would have been warranted by the state of the Colonial finances, an offer was made by the Company then under contract with us to give an additional mail to and from New York for seven months of the year, and to provide a small steamer for the conveyance of mails, passengers, and freight, to and from the anchorage in Salt Cay, for a sum which, with the former subsidy, would amonnt to 7,000*l*. That offer has, in the absence of any other possible mode of meeting the wishes of the Legislature, been accepted on trial for one year. It will be for you to say whether it shall be continued.

Mr Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly:

The equalization of your income and expenditure affords a fit opportunity for the consideration of a very important point by no means new to you.

Under instructions from the Secretary of State I have caused estimates of the revenue and expenditure for the present year to be laid before you. But these estimates will be comparatively valueless, and indeed may defeat the very purpose for which they are framed, if the appropriations which they propose, and which will be regulated by

your probable means, are increased or supplemented by additional votes.

I recommend to you, therefore, to dispense with the power of initiating grants of money, to vest in the Executive the responsibility in future of regulating your expenses by your income, and to confine yourselves to the constitutional practice of controlling and checking the financial proposals of the Executive.

If you should feel inclined to act on this suggestion, which I consider to be eminently conducive to good government, and to be the best mode of guarding against a recurrence of financial embarrassment, I am authorized to place the funds which have been hitherto at the disposal of the Crown, under your supervision equally with the Colonial revenue.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The great reduction which has taken place in the public expenditure could not have been effected without grievous hardship to individuals and without serious detriment to the trading interest of the Colony. For the two years 1867 and 1868 the payments from the Treasury amounted to 145,551*l.* For 1869 and 1870 they were only 85,701*l.* As a whole, the reductions appear to me to have been borne with a just estimate of the public necessities, and in a spirit which is entitled to my acknowledgements.

These pecuniary difficulties and other sources of contention having now passed away, you will be able to devote your attention to the legislative improvement of your institutions. The lunatic asylum in particular has attracted the notice of the authorities at home, who have recommended that the establishment should be brought more under the-direct superintendence of the Executive.

The condition of the people in the out-islands I especially commend to your attention. I am fully aware of the difficulties of providing for the education and the improvement of a population so scattered, and it will be the duty of the Government, particularly in the allotment of land, to keep the people as much together as possible, and so bring them the better under the influence of any arrangements that may be made for their moral and religious teaching.

Upon these and all your deliberations I invoke the blessing of Almighty God.

(Signed) JAS. WALKER,
Governor.

Nassau, 7th February, 1871.

TRINIDAD.

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No. 6.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LONGDEN to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 138.)

MY LORD, Trinidad, July 22, 1871.

I HAVE now the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of Trinidad for 1870, with my Report thereon.

2. I regret that it was not within my power to secure the compilation of it at an earlier date. I have already explained the causes of the delay, which will not be allowed to recur.

Finances.

Financial.

3. The finances of the Colony are in a satisfactory condition, the public debt being in a course of gradual extinction, while a large part of the public revenue is appropriated to the construction of roads and public works calculated to promote and increase the prosperity of the Colony. More than a fifth part of the whole revenue of 1870 was expended in immigration.

Revenue.

4. The total revenue received in 1870 was 233,585*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*, in which are included items of account amounting to 7,851*l.* 16*s.*; deducting these, the total available revenue was 225,733*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.* This, though less than the amount collected in 1869, exhibits an increase on the revenue of the preceding years. The net revenue collected in each of the last years, excluding items of account, was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1866	202,513	14	7
„ 1867	200,908	12	5
„ 1868	197,138	5	5
„ 1869	236,240	8	7
„ 1870	225,733	12	11

These figures give an average revenue during the five years of 212,506*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, so that the revenue of 1870 was 13,227*l.* in excess of the average revenue.

Expenditure.

5. The total expenditure of 1870 was 241,148*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*, of which 9,378*l.* were items of account, so that the total net expenditure was 231,770*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*

6. This sum exceeds the net revenue by 6,036*l.*, but there was not any real excess of expenditure over income, for the accounts include a sum of 14,982*l.* expended upon roads and bridges, which is not chargeable against the revenue of 1870, but against certain surplus balances of previous years, which were appropriated to this purpose by a Resolution of the Council, dated the 10th November, 1869, and the Ordinance No. 14 of 1869. After making this deduction accordingly, it will be seen that instead of an apparent deficit of 6,036*l.*, there was a positive surplus of revenue over expenditure amounting to 8,945*l.*

7. The expenditure may be classed under four principal heads, the respective amounts of which are stated below :—

	£	s.	d.
Civil, judicial, ecclesiastical, and medical establishments, including maintenance of hospitals and asylums, police and gaols, and public education, administration of justice, cost of mail service, &c. - -	130,844	11	6
Public works and buildings, bridges, wharves, &c. - - - - - -	39,612	13	10
Immigration - - - -	46,764	17	1
Interest and repayment of debt - -	23,926	2	0
Total - - - -	£241,148	4	5

Balances.

8. The cash balances to the credit of the Government on the 31st December last (including the Crown-Agents' accounts), amounted to 129,190*l.* 12*s.*, and the deposits and other liabilities at the same date amounted to 102,969*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*, leaving a net balance to the credit of the Colony of 26,221*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*

Public debt.

9. The public debts of the Colony comprise the following loans:— First, a loan raised for immigration purposes under the provisions of the Imperial Act 11 and 12 Vict., cap. 130, and the local Ordinance 15, of 1863. The sum borrowed was 125,000*l.*, of which 40,000*l.* was paid off on the 1st July, 1870, leaving 85,000*l.* still due, towards the repayment of which there was on the 31st of December, 1870, a sum of 69,731*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*, invested in England under the authority of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury. This debt bears interest at 4 per cent. The second debt is the amount raised upon debentures for the construction of tramroads under the authority of the Ordinances 4, of 1856, 3, of 1858, and 16, of 1859. The amount originally raised was 86,510*l.*, of which 38,210*l.* has been paid off, reducing the present debt to 48,300*l.*, which is secured by law upon the estates for whose benefit the tramroads were primarily constructed. These debentures bear interest at 6 per cent. The third debt was contracted under the authority of the Ordinance 18, of 1863, for the improvement of the roads in the ward of South Naparima. The amount borrowed was 7,000*l.*, at 6 per cent. interest; 2,250*l.* has since been paid off, leaving due 4,750*l.*, which is secured by a rent-charge of 550*l.* a year on the estates in the ward for whose benefit the loan was contracted. The fourth debt is a sum that was borrowed for defraying the cost of a public building under the authority of the Ordinance 1, of 1862. The sum raised was 16,000*l.*, of which 11,100*l.* has been redeemed, leaving 4,900*l.* still due, which is redeemable from the general revenue of the Colony at the rate of 1,600*l.* a year. This loan also bears 6 per cent. interest. The last loan was one of 15,000*l.*, raised under the Ordinance No. 10, of 1864, for the purpose of constructing a tramroad between the Cipero tramroad in Naparima and the borough of San Fernando. This loan is secured on the funds of the borough, and is redeemable at the rate of 600*l.* a year. It bears interest at 6 per cent. The sum of 2,200*l.* has been paid off, leaving 12,800*l.* still due. The aggregate amount of all these debts was originally 249,500*l.*, of which 93,760*l.* has been

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paid, leaving still due 155,740*l.* To cover this there is a sum of 69,731*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* in the sinking fund of the guaranteed loan, and 65,750*l.* is secured upon estates or local funds, so that the entire amount which remains primarily chargeable upon the public revenue is only 20,258*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*

Local finances.

10. The establishment of primary schools, the relief of the poor, vaccination, the maintenance (in part) of the public highways, the cost of coroners' inquests, and the charge of enforcing sanitary regulations in the boroughs and wards of the Island, are provided for chiefly from local taxation. The amounts raised for and expended upon these objects in each district are set out in the following Table, which shows also the area of each district and its population.

	Revenue.			Expenditure.			Area in Square Miles (Statute Miles).	Population in 1871.	Population per Square Mile.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
Borough of Port of Spain	8,106	16	11	7,575	18	2	1	23,561	
Borough of San Fernando	2,984	3	3	2,961	18	9	1	5,006	
Ward Unions of—									
Tacarigua	4,116	8	2	4,122	15	7	53	12,472	235
St. Ann's	3,697	3	7	3,666	16	5	40	7,549	188
South Naparima	5,129	14	3	4,800	16	10	67½	10,433	155
Diego Martin	2,985	19	9	2,808	5	1	50	7,283	145
North Naparima	4,643	6	8	4,608	15	10	92 6/10	12,779	139
Couva	4,506	4	0	4,011	16	4	81	10,233	126
Arima	1,951	3	8	1,918	18	2	126	4,390	34
Montserrat	879	10	5	656	14	0	128	3,388	26
Caroni	1,866	11	9	1,767	11	2	186	4,714	25
Cedros	2,304	17	4	2,284	16	7	234	4,241	18
Toco	506	0	6	702	5	11	126	1,278	10
Mayaro	1,317	5	3	1,330	10	7	*568 4/10	2,311	4
Moruga	250	9	9	187	7	7			
Totals	45,245	15	5	43,407	7	3	1,754½	109,638	

* The boundary between these two districts is uninhabited and not defined with exactness.

Public Works.

Police barracks.

11. The principal public building in progress during the year 1870 was the new police barracks, which include, besides, a police court, magistrates' and other offices, inspector-commandant's residence, police station, and lock-up. In this fine building, which was commenced during the administration of Sir Arthur Gordon, after a design by Mr. Street, fair progress was made during the past year, but the excessive rains during the wet season unavoidably retarded the progress of this extensive work. Next in importance is the

Electric telegraph.

electric telegraph, connecting Port of Spain with San Fernando and the intermediate towns, which was completed in 1870, and has proved of great utility both to the Government and to the public generally.

New wharf.

The laborious task of filling up the swamp to the eastward of port of Spain was continued during the year at a cost of 4,432*l.* 6*s.* A new

New buildings.

cottage for the Government botanist, a new ward at the lunatic asylum, and new police stations in the country, were the only other new works under construction. A large sum of money was laid out

in necessary repairs to the leper asylum, the royal gaol, the hospital, several country police stations, and other public buildings. TRINIDAD.

12. The expenditure upon roads and bridges was greater than that upon public buildings. Iron bridges were erected over the Cipero River and the Musquito Creek. A large iron bridge was provided for spanning the Godineau River, which is still in course of erection. A fourth iron bridge was procured from England for crossing the Arouca River, which has been erected and opened for traffic in the present year. Considerable progress was also made in laying out new royal roads and reconstructing others which had become impassable. Roads.

Legislation.

13. Twenty-two Ordinances were enacted during the year 1870, and amongst them were several of much importance. Laws.

14. Number 1, called the "Habitual Criminals Ordinance," was adapted chiefly from analogous English legislation.

15. Number 2, called the "Alien Criminals Ordinance," was made necessary by the resort to Trinidad of persons from the French penal settlement of Cayenne.

16. Number 3, relating to the feeding of Indian immigrants, was subsequently incorporated in the general Ordinance, No. 13 relating to immigration.

17. Number 4 is a short Ordinance, transferring the jurisdiction of the Petty Debt Court in the town of San Fernando from the Stipendiary Magistrate of the eastern division of the county of St. Patrick, to the Magistrate of the county of Victoria, in which latter county the town is situate.

18. Number 5 authorizes the appointment of a Colonial storekeeper, who performs the duty of master or steward of the Colonial hospital, and likewise exercises a salutary control over the supplies of the other charitable institutions of the Colony.

19. Number 6 is the law with regard to education which was prepared and passed during the administration of Sir Arthur Gordon. The Report of Mr. Keenan, Sir Arthur Gordon's Despatches, and the other papers lately presented to Parliament on the subject of "Education in Trinidad," fully disclose the motives and objects of this important measure, and supersede the necessity of any present report upon it.

20. Number 7 is an Ordinance to authorize a new assessment of ward rates to be made in the ward of Arima.

21. Number 8 authorizes the advance from the Treasury of the cost of the iron bridge over the Arouca River, which I have before mentioned. The cost is to be repaid by instalments from the road funds of the ward in which it is situate.

22. Number 9 authorizes the construction of works for supplying the borough of San Fernando with water from the Montserrat Hills. The cost, which is approximately estimated at 20,000*l.*, is to be advanced from the Treasury; but two-thirds of the cost, not exceeding, however, in any case 13,333*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, is to be repaid from the funds of the borough by annual instalments, with interest at 6 per

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cent. Instructions have been given for making the surveys and levels, which must be completed before the work can be commenced.

23. Number 10 repeals an Ordinance passed in 1844 "for the "better regulation of the duties of the Clergy of the United Church "of England and Ireland in this Colony, and for ensuring the more "effectual performance of the same." By the repeal of this Ordinance the Church of England in Trinidad was virtually disestablished. The endowments of the church were at the same time provided for upon the same footing as before by a resolution of the Council passed on the 25th of March, 1870.

24. Number 11 repeals an Ordinance of 1862, constituting certain rectories of the Church of England in this Colony. This repeal was made necessary by the preceding measure.

25. Number 12 is the usual supplemental Appropriation Ordinance.

Immigration Ordinance.

26. Number 13 is an Ordinance amending and consolidating into one law the different enactments relating to the immigration of Coolies from the East Indies and China. By this Ordinance many changes and improvements were made in the laws previously existing. Among the most important provisions of the new law are those which regulate the allotment of immigrants upon their arrival in the Colony, the supply of food to them during the first two years of their residence, their lodging, the medical attendance and hospitals provided for them, their wages, the exemption of women from labour, the prevention of vagrancy, and the right of repatriation.

Rules of allotment.

27. The allotment of immigrants upon their arrival in the Colony is based upon requisitions which must be sent in by the planters to the Immigration Office before the 1st of April preceding the immigration season. No allotment can be made to any estate upon which the mortality in the previous year has exceeded 7 per cent. Under this provision, 20 estates were disqualified from receiving new Coolies in 1870, and 11 estates in 1871. This provision fully meets the suggestion put forward in the 535th paragraph of the Report of the Commissioners who lately inquired into the treatment of immigrants in British Guiana. It is also required as a condition of allotting immigrants, that 15 per cent. of those previously on the estate should have earned at least sixpence a day for every day during the preceding 12 months. No estates have been disqualified under this rule. Finally, no immigrants can be allotted to an estate on which there is not a hospital certified by an immigration officer.

Feeding of immigrants.

28. Every immigrant over 10 years of age must, for the first two years of his residence, be furnished with the following daily ration of food:—One pound of rice, four ounces of dholl or approved vegetable food, two ounces of sugar, one ounce of cocoanut oil or ghee. This ration is rather less than that recommended by the Demerara Commissioners, paragraph 542; but it allows the Coolie to receive a larger share of his wages in cash, which he much prefers. The price of the ration is fixed at fourpence, which the employer is authorized to deduct from the Coolie's wages. At the end of the first year the immigration officers may, on the application of the immigrants themselves, order the discontinuance of the rations. This is only done where the immigrants appear to be in good health, and is not a practice to be encouraged, for it was found by experience, when the

issue of food was limited to the first year after their arrival, that the mortality in the second year of their residence was excessive.* A half-ration must be supplied, free of charge, to every child above five and under 10 years of age.

Lodging.

29. It is provided by the Ordinance that the Governor may make regulations respecting the lodging, &c., provided for the immigrants. Regulations have been made accordingly, requiring that the houses appropriated to Coolies shall be properly drained, floored with wood, and whitewashed at least once a year, both inside and out. Power is also given to make regulations for enforcing the observance by the immigrants themselves of cleanliness about their dwellings.

Medical attendance.

30. A great change was made by the law in the position of the medical attendants of estates. They have hitherto been private practitioners employed and paid by the owners of the estates. Under the new law the Governor is empowered to nominate "Medi-"cal Visitors of Plantations," and to assign to each of them a salary in respect of each certified hospital attended by them. The salaries are paid from the immigration fund. As a matter both of justice and of necessity the actual medical attendants of the estates at the time of the change were nominated Medical Visitors of Plantations. The principles observed in the assignment of salaries and other matters connected with the change were detailed in my Despatch, No. 6, of the 19th of January last. The change only took effect from the beginning of this year, and though the result of it cannot be reported at present, there can be little doubt it will be beneficial to the Coolie. The medical visitors of plantations are now responsible to the Governor alone for the medical treatment of the immigrants, and it is their duty to make detailed quarterly reports to the Agent-General of Immigrants of the age, sex, disease, and treatment, of all patients attended by them in the hospitals under their care.

Hospitals for immigrants.

31. Every estate having indentured immigrants must be provided with a hospital capable of accommodating a tenth-part of the number of such immigrants. These hospitals are to be certified, after inspection, by officers of the Immigration Department, for such number of patients only as will allow 800 cubic feet of space to each patient. Overcrowding is forbidden under a penalty of 10*l*. The medical visitor is required to visit every hospital within his district twice a week, and to make an entry of his visit in the Case-book, which is to be kept at the hospital and to be open to the inspection of the Agent-General or Inspector of Immigrants. It is required that each hospital shall be a detached building, properly drained, and furnished with a sufficient supply of pure water. Every bed is to be furnished with a pillow and blanket, and every patient with a clean hospital dress. The food is to be issued to the patients properly cooked, and the employer is to cause the medicines and diet ordered by the medical visitor to be given to each patient.

Wages.

32. The wages to be given to indentured Coolies must be at the same rate as those given to unindentured labourers. These vary from 20 to 30 cents for a task, most commonly 25 cents. The task is often completed by two o'clock, sometimes earlier; but it does not

* See paragraph 52.

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appear usual for the Coolies to work more than one task in the day. The indentured labourer must work 280 days in the year, but this obligation does not extend to females in times of pregnancy or sickness.

Vagrancy.

33. For the prevention of vagrancy every indentured labourer must, on leaving his estate, be provided with a pass from his employer, in default of which he may be arrested by any constable and detained until he can be brought before a stipendiary magistrate, who may, on proof that he is an indentured labourer absent without permission, order him to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding seven days, and then sent back to his employer.

Repatriation and settlement.

34. At the end of an actual and continuous residence of ten years the Coolie has a right to a free passage back to India at the public expense. He may, if he pleases, commute this right for a grant of ten acres of Crown land. Many of the Coolies have taken advantage of this, and settled themselves permanently in the Colony. Three Coolie villages have been formed of these settlers. I reported on this subject in my Despatch, No. 61, of the 15th of April last. The settlement of Coolies in the Colony is advocated in the Report of the Demerara Commissioners (paragraphs 842 to 856), upon considerations which are, in many respects, applicable also to Trinidad. This Colony offers considerable advantages in this respect, that fertile lands are allotted to Coolies, requiring no expensive system of draining, as in Demerara, to render them fit for cultivation, but merely to be cleared and planted.

35. There are many other important clauses in the new law, but I have only drawn attention to the principal provisions made for insuring the health, comfort, and welfare of the Coolies.

Land Transfer Ordinance.

36. The next Ordinance, No. 14, is a very important law. It is an Ordinance for the declaration of titles to land, and to facilitate its transfer, adapted principally from a similar law in New South Wales. It was not brought into operation in 1870.

District medical officers.

37. Number 15 is an Ordinance for the appointment of district medical officers, thirteen of whom have been appointed. Each district medical officer is a coroner, the vaccinator, and the sanitary inspector of his district. The establishment of dispensaries in each district, where medical relief shall be afforded at stated intervals, is under consideration.

Incorporation of Roman Catholic Archbishop.

38. By the Ordinance No. 16 the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Port of Spain is created a body corporate, with power to hold property for the use of the Roman Catholic Church.

Judgment debtors.

39. The Ordinance No. 17 amends the law for the attachment of the debts due to judgment debtors.

Planters' tax.

40. The Ordinance No. 18 defines the rate of export duty on sugar and cocoa to be levied in 1871. This duty is appropriated solely to the purposes of immigration. The duty was increased to 7*s.* 6*d.* per hogshead of sugar, and 1*s.* $6\frac{3}{4}$*d.* per 100 lbs. of cocoa, in order to meet the increased charges thrown upon the immigration fund by the salaries of the medical visitors of plantations, the expense of a return ship to India, and a deficiency in the fund for 1870.

Appropriation and Income Tax Ordinances.

41. Ordinance 19 is the Annual Appropriation Act, and Ordinance 20 extends the exemption from income tax to incomes under 200*l.*

a-year, and reduces the tax on incomes above 200*l.* and under 300*l.* to 4*d.* in the pound, the rate on incomes over 300*l.* being 5*d.*

42. Ordinance 21 postpones the coming into operation of the Land Transfer Ordinance, No. 14, on account of the difficulty found in organizing a working staff to carry out the law. This postponement is only temporary.

43. The last Ordinance, No. 22, provided for the taking of the decennial census in 1871.

Civil Establishment.

Changes in establishment

44. Some changes took place in the principal offices of the Government in 1870. Governor Sir Arthur Gordon left the Island to assume the Government of Mauritius, and I was sworn in as his successor on the 25th of June. Chief Justice Needham, appointed to succeed the late Chief Justice Knox, arrived and entered upon his duties in May. Mr. Charles Warner resigned the office of Attorney-General, and was succeeded by Mr. Garcia, formerly Solicitor-General. Mr. Justice Bowen retired from the Bench on a pension, and was succeeded by Mr. Court as Second Puisne Judge. Mr. Bulwer having resigned the office of Receiver-General, Mr. Hoare was appointed to succeed him, and entered upon his duties in October. Mr. James S. Hobson, formerly Stipendiary Magistrate of the Eastern Division of the county of St. George, was promoted to the Stipendiary Magistracy of Port of Spain, vacated by the death of Mr. Stone. Mr. D. Wilson was appointed to succeed Mr. Hobson. Captain Newland was appointed Stipendiary Magistrate of San Fernando and the county of Victoria, in place of Mr. T. Shirley Warner, who retired on a pension. Dr. Crane was nominated by your Lordship to succeed the late Dr. Dasent as Surgeon-General, but did not arrive in the Colony until 1871. Dr. Cuddiford was appointed House Surgeon, and Mr. Glanville Assistant Surgeon, of the Colonial hospital in Port of Spain, and entered on their duties in December. Mr. J. J. Thomas was nominated Secretary to the Board of Education. Mr. Sealy was appointed Superintendent of Prisons. There were also some minor departmental changes which are noted in the Blue Book.

Population.

Census of 1871.

45. The population of Trinidad was ascertained by the census taken on the 10th of April, 1871, to be 109,638, being an increase of 25,200 during the last 10 years.

Proportion of sexes.

46. The number of males was returned as 60,405, and the number of females as only 49,233, showing an excess of 11,172 males. Of this excess 9,145 is found among the Indian immigrants, who number 18,285 males to 9,140 females. The proportion among all other classes of the population is 42,120 males to 40,093 females, showing an excess of 2,027 males.

Birth-places, population.

47. Nearly three-fifths of the population are returned as natives of Trinidad. The following abstract shows the birth-place of the rest of the population :—

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Born in	Trinidad (including children of Indian parents)	61,237
„	India	22,880
„	British Colonies*	13,707
„	Africa	4,256
„	Venezuela	2,195
„	Other foreign countries	1,979
„	The United Kingdom	954
Chinese		1,400
Portuguese		605
Not described		425
	Total	109,638

Distribution of the people.

48. The population is distributed most unequally over the Island, large tracts being entirely uninhabited, and others most thinly inhabited. The two wards of Mayaro and Moruga, containing 568 square miles, nearly a third of the area of the whole Island, have a population of 2,311, being at the rate of only four inhabitants to the square mile. The five ward unions of Toco, Arima, Caroni, Montserrat, and Cedros, containing together 800 square miles, have a population of 18,011, being at the rate of 22 to the square mile; and the remaining six wards of Diego Martin, St. Ann's, Tacaregua, Couva, North and South Naparima, including the towns of Port of Spain and San Fernando, occupy an area of 386 square miles, with a population of 89,318, being at the rate of 231 inhabitants to the square mile.

Immigration.

Number of immigrants brought to Colony in 1870.

49. The Report of the Agent-General of Immigrants shows that during the season terminating on the 1st October, 1870, there were 2,881 immigrants of all ages landed here from Calcutta. The number embarked was 2,933, and the deaths on the voyage were 52; of these 21 were children, so that the mortality on the passage was only 1 per cent. among adults alone, and 1·7 on the whole number.

Present Indian population.

50. The whole population of Indian origin now in the Colony was ascertained by the recent census to be 28,425. Of these, it appears from the Agent-General's returns that 7,888 were working under their first five years' indenture, and 2,330 having completed their original contracts were working under fresh engagements, leaving 18,207 resident in the Colony not under any indenture. In this number are included the children, whether of indentured or unindentured Coolies.

Mortality among Coolies.

51. The recorded mortality in 1870 among 8,236 indentured Coolies was 359, being at the rate of 4·3 per cent. The rate varied according to the length of the Coolies' residence, in the proportions shown in the following Table:—

* Chiefly other British West India Islands.

	Total Number.	Deaths in 1870.	Rate per cent.
Arrived in 1866 -	838	17	2·0
„ 1867 -	2,023	47	2·3
„ 1868 -	1,420	56	3·9
„ 1869 -	1,744	162	10·7
„ 1870 -	2,211	77	3·4
Total - -	8,236	359	4·3

52. The comparatively small mortality in the first year of residence is attributed by the Agent-General to the system lately introduced of issuing a daily ration of food to the immigrants during the first twelve months of their residence. The excessive mortality of the second year is attributed in like manner to the discontinuance of the rations at the end of twelve months. Under the new immigration law the ration system is extended to two years, unless otherwise ordered by the immigration officers.

Cost of immigration.

53. The total cost of immigration in 1870, exclusive of the establishment of the Agent-General's office, was 46,764*l.* This included the cost of a ship carrying back to India Coolies who were entitled to a return passage.

Education.

Queen's Royal College.

54. By the Education Ordinance, No. 6, of 1870, public provision was made for the promotion of liberal education by the establishment of the "Queen's Royal College of Trinidad." This college absorbs the formerly existing Queen's Collegiate School, and the Roman Catholic College of the Immaculate Conception has also been declared in connection with it. The students of the Roman Catholic College are admitted as students of the Royal College, and compete for the annual exhibitions. The Principal of the Roman Catholic College receives a salary of 500*l.* per annum, and about the same amount is granted in results fees according to the Ordinance. Free admission to the college is granted annually to six pupils chosen by competition from the primary schools. Four exhibitions of 150*l.* a-year each for three years are annually granted to the students of the college who pass the best examination, to be applied to their maintenance at some university in Great Britain and Ireland. There are at present 127 students on the books of the college.

Normal schools.

55. Under the direction of the Principal of the Royal College, there is a normal school for the training of teachers for the primary schools of the Colony. The normal school contains 12 students. It appears to be a very useful institution, and indispensable for providing properly qualified teachers, for the primary schools. At the examination of teachers, and candidates for the office of teacher, in the primary schools, held in January last, four students from the normal school passed in a very satisfactory manner.

Primary schools.

56. There are 35 primary schools supported from public funds. Of these two are model schools (one for boys and one for girls) supported directly from the public treasury; three are borough schools, supported from the funds of the boroughs of Port of Spain and San Fernando; and 30 are ward schools, formerly supported from

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the ward rates, but since September, 1870, from a special education rate levied under the authority of the Education Ordinance of 1870. The total number of children in all these schools is returned by the Inspector of Schools as 3,336.

57. Besides these, there are denominational schools attached to the Church of England and other churches, which do not receive any aid from the public treasury, and there are several private schools; it is estimated that these schools provided education for 700 children.

58. The improvements effected by the recent change in the law governing public education in Trinadad will be more satisfactorily reported upon after a longer experience has been gained of the operation of the new regulations.

Trade.

Imports.

59. The gross value of the Imports into the Colony during the year 1870 amounted to 1,042,678*l.* This sum includes 30,045 ounces of gold, valued at 112,668*l.*, brought to the Colony from the mines of Las Pablas in Venezuela, and afterwards re-exported. The following summary shows the different countries from which the importations took place:—

	Value of Importations. £
From the United Kingdom	448,309
„ British Possessions	189,115
„ the United States	151,306
„ Venezuela (including the above-named gold)	160,885
„ France and French Colonies	64,878
„ Spain and Spanish Colonies	15,189
„ Holland and Dutch Colonies	723
„ the Republic of Uruguay (Monte Video)	9,211
„ Germany	1,707
„ Portuguese Colonies (Madeira, &c.)	1,003
„ Other countries	347

60. The Blue Book contains a detailed list of the different kinds of merchandise imported; the following summary shows the value of each of the principal classes of imports:—

	Value. £	*s.*	*d.*
Bricks and tiles	8,030	14	9
Candles	13,339	8	9
Coals	8,412	10	0
Forage (oats, hay, bran, corn, oil-meal, &c.)	24,490	9	7
Gold	112,668	15	6
Hardware and machinery	88,489	0	11
Leather (manufactured)	29,687	6	10
Live stock	36,392	8	0
Lumber and wood	34,862	16	0
Provisions	206,678	10	1
Specie	43,403	15	0
Spirits, wine, ale, &c.	47,715	1	3
Textile goods	157,017	3	1
Tobacco	16,614	18	9
Sundries	214,825	4	6
	£1,042,678	3	0

61. As population spreads over the now unsettled districts, and internal communication is facilitated and improved, many of the articles now imported from abroad, such as rice and all tropical vegetables and provisions, Indian corn, and even live stock, might with advantage and economy be raised within the Island.

Exports.

62. The exports of 1870 are valued at 1,277,574*l.* Of this sum the products of the Island were valued at 932,884*l.*

63. As compared with the large crop of 1869, the produce of sugar, 1870, shows a diminution of 22 per cent., a necessary sequence of the unusually dry weather in 1869. The crop did not however fall below the average of the last ten years, as will be seen from the following Table :—

		Cwt.
Exports of sugar in	1860	540,678
" "	1861	549,464
" "	1862	738,117
" "	1863	668,255
" "	1864	706,246
" "	1865	560,166
" "	1866	813,339
" "	1867	828,116
" "	1868	830,708
" "	1869	929,365

Average of ten years, 716,454 cwt. Export of 1870, 819,042 cwt.

Export of cocoa.

64. The export of cocoa in 1870 reached 64,076 cwt., and showed an increase of 8,184 cwt., and is much above the average produce of the last ten years, which was 53,181 cwt. As it is five or six years from the time of planting before young cacao trees come into full bearing, the increase in the annual production is necessarily slow. The price of Trinadad cocoa in the European markets varies greatly according to its quality, being quoted from 85 shillings per cwt. for the commoner kinds, to 130 shillings for the most superior.* It is obviously most important that in forming new plantations care should be taken to perpetuate only the finest and most profitable kinds. No doubt the quality, and therefore the price of the cocoa depends in some measure upon the character of the soil, but much also depends upon the selection of the proper kinds for planting, and upon careful cultivation. This is a subject which might profitably engage the attention of the local Society of Arts, especially at the present time, when a forward movement is proceeding in the settlement of Crown lands by small proprietors, most of whom will probably engage in cacao cultivation.

65. The largest part of the produce of the Colony was as usual shipped to the United Kingdom. Some was sent to the United States. The trade with other countries and colonies was chiefly in merchandise, not the produce of the Colony. The distribution of the export trade is shown in the following summary :—

* Quoted from 'Trinidad Chronicle' of July 25th, quoting 'The Grocer,' June 24th, 1871.

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	£	s.	d.
To the United Kingdom	931,255	19	7
„ British Possessions	63,521	14	2
„ the United States	21,412	7	6
„ Venezuela	102,501	0	0
„ France	39,432	5	7
„ Spanish West Indies	8,694	8	0
„ French West Indies	6,778	8	2
„ Germany	1,667	12	0
„ other places	908	7	6

Agriculture.

66. The periodical assessment of lands under cultivation will be made in the present year. The areas given in the Blue Book are repeated from the former assessment. I propose therefore to postpone making any report upon this subject until next year.

Grants of Land.

67. Six hundred and eighty-eight grants of Crown land were made in 1870. The total quantity granted was 9,316 acres. Much of this land had been previously in the occupation of squatters, but some of it had not been previously reclaimed. Some of the grants were made to Indian immigrants in lieu of return passages to India, the remainder was sold at the upset price of 1*l.* per acre.

Gaols and Prisoners.

* Not printed.

68. I enclose a Report* upon the Royal Gaol of Trinidad drawn up by the present able Superintendent of Prisons, Mr. Sealy. The total number of prisoners committed in the year 1870, including 30 adjourned cases, was 2,012. This is a considerable decrease upon the numbers committed in the four preceding years. The following summary shows the principal offences or causes of committal :—

Adjourned cases	30
Arson	7
Assaults	154
Burglary	17
Cruelty to animals	6
Cutting wood without licence	5
Damaging property	14
Damaging with intent to steal	19
Drunkenness	85
Fighting	51
Forgery	2
Fraud and embezzlement	10
Gambling	17
Indecent behaviour and language	116
Killing and slaying	20
Larceny	257
Menaces	10
Murder	11
Obtaining goods under false pretences	4
Rape	5
Receiving stolen goods	24

Riotous conduct	11
Streets, offences in public, furious driving, throwing stones, &c.	56
Stabbing and wounding	22
Trespass	26
Vagrancy	22
Sundry other offences	26
Committed for offences against immigration laws, breach of contract, &c.	727
Committed for debt	213
Committed for want of bail	6
Crown witnesses	4
Soldiers committed by militaay authorities	11
Policemen committed for offences against police ordinance	8
Committed for squatting	13
Committed for offence against fire ordinance	3
Total committals	2,012

69. The following is a summary of the nationalities of the prisoners committed in 1870 :—

Natives of Trinidad	373
„ India	979
„ Other West India Islands	341
„ China	147
„ Africa	79
„ Europe	62
„ Venezuela	22
„ North America	3
„ Australia	6
Total	2,012

70. The large preponderance of Indians is explained by reference to the offences against the immigration laws—committed only by immigrants—which numbered more than a third of the total committals. These offences are of two kinds, breach of contract in not performing their allotted tasks, and contravening the Ordinance by quitting the estates to which they are indentured without a pass; the punishment for these statutory offences varies from seven days' to three months' imprisonment.

71. The year 1870 was marked by a great increase in the number of burglaries and nocturnal robberies in Port of Spain, which were attributed by the public, in great measure, to the influx of a number of French convicts from the convict settlement of Cayenne.

Hospitals and Asylums.

72. In the Port of Spain hospital there were 208 patients remaining at the commencement of the year, and 1,854 patients were admitted. Of these 1,264 were discharged cured, and 429 relieved; 164 died; and 205 remained in the hospital at the close of the year. The daily average of patients was 186. Three thousand six hundred out-patients were seen or prescribed for. The mortality in this hospital

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in 2,062 cases (the total number of patients treated) was 7·95 per cent. The hospital was successively under the care of three house-surgeons, Dr. Bostock, who resigned in August, Dr. Ortiz, who took temporary charge, and Dr. Cuddeford, the present house-surgeon, who relieved Dr. Ortiz in December.

73. In the San Fernando hospital there were 71 patients at the commencement of the year; 605 were admitted; 427 were discharged cured; 25 were relieved; 121 died; and 103 remained in the hospital at the close of the year. The daily average was 76. The mortality in this hospital in 676 cases was at the rate of 17·89. The cause of this excessive mortality has been under investigation by Dr. Crane, the Surgeon-General, and will, I trust, be removed.

74. New regulations are now under consideration for improving the management of both these hospitals.

75. In the lunatic asylum the daily average of patients through the year was 91. Thirty-three patients were admitted and 16 discharged cured during the 12 months. Ten died. This asylum is very well managed under the careful superintendence of Dr. Murray, the medical officer in charge.

76. Besides these three institutions there are several others for the relief of the indigent sick, namely, the leper hospital at Cocorite, and the house of refuge, both supported by the Government; an almshouse supported by the Municipality of Port of Spain; and an orphan home for Coolie children, supported partly by Government, partly by voluntary contributions, and partly by the exertions of the children, who are taught to labour in the grounds belonging to the house.

Literary Institutions.

77. The principal literary institution is the public library, founded by Ordinance in 1851, and supported by subscription aided by a grant of 300*l.* a year from the public treasury. The library is at present kept in a hired house, but it is in contemplation to erect a suitable public building, which would not only include the library, but also afford accommodation for the large collection of birds, reptiles, and other specimens of the natural history of the Island, prepared by the late Dr. Leotand, and now in possession of the Government. A public museum, exhibiting a complete collection of specimens of the natural history and of the geology and mineralogy of the Island, could not fail to be a public advantage.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. R. LONGDEN, Governor.

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No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor RAWSON, C.B., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 113.) Windward Islands, Barbados,
MY LORD, September 15, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies, in duplicate, of the Blue Book for the year 1870, together with my Report to accompany it.

2. Your Lordship will observe that the former is printed for the first time, which will render its contents much more widely useful than hitherto. The difficulties in the way of completing it earlier, according to your Lordship's desire and instructions, have been explained in my Despatch, No. 61, of the 7th June last.

3. I have satisfaction in reporting that the past year proved somewhat more favourable for the population and commerce of the Island than the one preceding. The prosperity of Barbados depends mainly—almost entirely—upon its sugar crop. The sugar crop depends upon the rainfall. The one may be considered as the wet bulb, and the other as the dry bulb, of the instrument by which the well-being of the Island may be annually gauged.

4. The rainfall of 1868, followed by the very deficient crop of 1869, was only 44·60 inches. It had only once been less in the last 24 years, viz. in 1863, when it was followed by a crop which fell below the average by 19 per cent. In 1858 it was 44·75 inches, closely the same as in 1868, and was followed by a crop 11 per cent. below the average. The rainfall of 1869 was somewhat higher, 48·52 inches. The nearest approximation to that was 48·49 inches in 1856, which was followed by a crop 14 per cent. below the average.

5. The crop of 1869 was the smallest that had been taken off since the years 1847–49, when the system of planting was very much inferior, and the use of artificial manures had scarcely been introduced. The yield of 1869 was only 32,150 hogsheads, being 28 per cent. below the average. In 1859 the deficiency was not so great, only 11 per cent.; in 1864 it was 19 per cent. The yield of 1870 was 39,360 hogsheads, which was 12 per cent. below the average, corresponding closely with that of 1857, which was 14 per cent. below it.

6. The above connection between the rainfall and the crops, and the frequent coincidences between similar years, as in 1857 and 1870, are so remarkable, as to appear to me to justify the prominence which I have given to them in this Report, with the view of attracting the attention of sugar planters on this and other islands to the subject, and of stimulating them to preserve, if they already fortunately possess, an abundant supply of rain, or means of irrigation; or to

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acquire them by artificial appliances, if, as in this Island, they do not possess them, and are exposed to frequently recurring droughts.

7. The earlier part of the year 1870 was marked by much discouragement and apprehension, not only for the crop of the year, but for that of 1871. The rainfall of the first five months had been 15 per cent. less than that of the corresponding period in 1869, and 25 per cent. less than the average. An abundant rainfall in June (being nearly double the average), and a well-distributed and sufficiently abundant rainfall during the remainder of the year, although it came too late to benefit the crop of the year, dissipated the apprehension of a third consecutively deficient crop, and encouraged a reasonable expectation, which has since been realized, of an abundant, if not of a large crop in 1871.

8. Consequently, as the year advanced, as the losses arising from the short quantity, and very low quality, of the crop of 1869, and from the low prices which the crop generally fetched, were settled, and began to be forgotten, the spirits of the agriculturists, which is synonymous with the population of Barbados, rose with the pluviometer, and had nearly recovered their normal height by the end of the year.

9. Other circumstances contributed to this result. Two sugar refineries were brought into active operation in Bridgetown, which provided a profitable local market for molasses and even for inferior sugars. Foreign trade prospered. The war in France caused an extraordinary temporary demand for an unusual class of goods from the neighbouring French colonies. The political conflict between the two Chambers was brought to an end. Public works were resumed. The revenue increased; useful legislation was revived; and the cloud of depression and stagnation, intensified by the bitterness of political strife, which had hung over the Island for the two preceding years, began to disperse. I will proceed to note the principal features of the annual returns.

1. *Taxes, Duties, &c.*

10. A complete revision of the tariff was made, and the new law came into operation after the 31st March. No great changes were made in the rates of duty, but the operations of trade were facilitated, and the exemption of articles required for the use of Her Majesty's military and naval services was made complete. Further facilities in respect of bonding bulky goods, not likely to be smuggled, were given, by establishing two classes of bonding warehouses—one, under that name, for spirits, wine, tobacco, and articles of that description, in which the bonding system is strictly maintained; the other, called licensed warehouses, in which the same constant superintendence of an officer is dispensed with, but the parties licensed are held responsible for the duties on all articles deposited therein, whenever taken out for consumption, or ascertained to be deficient.

2. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

11. As a review of the finances of a single year gives but an imperfect idea of the financial position of a country, it may not be out

of place to repeat here some of the statements which I had occasion to lay before the Legislature when sending down the estimates of the year.

12. The financial accounts of the last four years exhibit satisfactory results; first, stability in the revenue, notwithstanding that two successive unfavourable seasons have greatly reduced the staple crop of the Island, and straitened the means of the population; and, secondly, equalization of revenue with expenditure, notwithstanding the advances made during this period to sundry public bodies, and the payment of heavy arrears for works due at the commencement of it.

13. The gross revenue of 1870 amounted to 104,931*l.*; in 1869 it was 102,606*l.*; in 1868, 105,545*l.*

14. After deducting the addition of 20 per cent. made to the Customs duties in April, 1868, for the purposes of creating a fund for the erection of public buildings, the balance of ordinary revenue applicable to general purposes in each of the three years was:—

	£
In 1868	99,521
„ 1869	94,424
„ 1870	96,372
The amount in 1867 was	98,347

15. The large crop made in 1868 only increased the revenue of that ye ar by about 1,200*l.* The small crop of 1869 reduced it by 5,100*l.* Last year the revenue, though improved, was still 2,000*l.* below the amount of 1867.

16. The additional Customs duties have yielded in the three years as follows, nett, after deducting drawbacks:—

	£	
In 1868	6,024	£22,766
„ 1869	8,182	
„ 1870	8,560	

The amount remaining available at the close of the year, after paying 6,476*l.* for the purchase of the site, and 2,509*l.* in instalments upon the contract for the portion of the public buildings already commenced, was 13,778*l.*

17. The increase in the receipts in 1870 arose chiefly under the same heads as the decrease in 1869, but the rum duty continued to decrease.

18. The balance in the treasurer's hand and Colonial Bank, applicable to general purposes, which was 14,111*l.* on the 1st January, 1870, was 13,335*l.* on the 31st December, being reduced by only 776*l.*

19. The expenditure of the same three years, excluding the Public Building Fund, was:—

	£
In 1868	93,347
„ 1869	97,298
„ 1870	97,149

In 1867, the year before the stoppage of public works, it was 99,873*l.*

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20. The principal items of extraordinary expenditure, arising under the heads of molehead department, militia, public works and buildings and city improvements (other than the new public buildings), roads, and advances on loans or special grants, amounted in the above years:—

		£	
In 1867	to	19,772	Average £16,867.
„ 1868	„	17,702	
„ 1869	„	17,032	
„ 1870	„	12,964	

21. Deducting this extraordinary expenditure from the totals shown in paragraph 19, the ordinary expenditure of the four years stands thus:—

	£	
In 1867	80,111	Average £80,026.
„ 1868	75,645	
„ 1869	80,266	
„ 1870	84,185	

22. The comparative revenue and expenditure of each year, excluding the Public Buildings Fund, was:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
In 1867	98,347	99,783
„ 1868	99,521	93,347
„ 1869	96,424	97,298
„ 1870	96,322	97,149
Total	388,664	387,577

leaving a trifling balance in favour of the revenue. But during this period the operations of the Molehead Board have been at a standstill, and few public works of any consequence have been undertaken.

3. *Local Revenues.*

23. The revenue and expenditure of the several vestries varies but little from year to year. The total receipts were:—

	£
In 1869	21,142
„ 1870	20,656

The expenditure was:—

	£
In 1869	21,526
„ 1870	21,339

24. The chief objects of expenditure in these years were:—

	1869.	1870.
	£	£
Relief of the poor	6,987	7,141
Education	1,697	1,223
Church expenses	2,707	2,350

The parochial expenditure on education is supplementary to that provided by the Legislature, and disbursed by the Education Committee.

25. The revenue raised and expended by the Road Commissioners, independent of the grants made to them by the Legislature, which amounted in 1870 to 5,450*l.*, was:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1869 - - - - -	6,911	17	2
„ 1870 - - - - -	7,001	2	4

This revenue is derived from the following sources:—

Land, rated at 9*d.* per acre - -	acres 101,182
Tax on rents, at 1½*d.* per £; amount	£911 9*s.* 8½*d.*
Horses, at 6*s.* each - - -	No. 1,909
Mules, at 3*s.* 9*d.* each - - - -	„ 3,287
Asses, at 2*s.* each - - - -	„ 804
Wheels of burthen, at 2*s.* 6*d.* each - -	„ 7,666
„ pleasure, „ „ -	„ 3,948

The extent of main roads in the Island is 274 miles; of cross roads, 203 miles.

4. *Direct Taxation.*

26. The following comparison of the direct and indirect taxation of the Island, including general and parochial, and not confining the former to land and houses, will possess interest. The figures are taken from the revenues of 1869 in the several Windward Islands, and from the estimates of Jamaica for 1869–70.

REVENUES.

	Direct.	Indirect.	Total.	Percentage Proportion of Direct to the whole.
	£	£	£	
Barbados - -	41,006	87,808	128,814	32
St. Vincent - -	7,135	22,781	29,916	25
Grenada - -	7,225	19,983	27,208	26
Tobago - - -	2,617	7,084	9,701	27
St. Lucia - -	4,443	15,549	19,992	22
Jamaica - - -	100,212	301,522	401,734	25

5. *Public Debt.*

27. Still none. The balance of general revenue at the close of the year was 13,335*l.*, being only 776*l.* less than at the beginning. The balance of the Public Buildings Fund on the 31st December was 13,778*l.*

6. *Military Expenditure.*

28. The expenditure incurred by Her Majesty's Government for military establishments exhibits a considerable decrease, viz.:—

	£
In 1868 - - - - -	87,428
„ 1869 - - - - -	90,887
„ 1870 - - - - -	77,258

Of the last amount 6,985*l.* was on account of works and buildings.

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Nothing was expended on account of the militia in 1870, the arms having been kept in order by the police.

7. *Public Works.*

29. The expenditure on public works during the year amounted to 7,519*l.*, of which 2,509*l.* was on account of the new public buildings. Besides these, the principal works commenced or put in hand during the year were the new bridge and the repairs of the molehead. No progress was made in deciding the question of harbour works.

8. *Legislation.*

30. The principal Acts passed during the year were:—

1. To consolidate the Acts for regulating the trade of the Island.
2. To establish a Board of Molehead Commissioners.
3. To appropriate casual revenues arising from escheated estates.
4. To authorize the Bridgetown Water Company to extend their works.
5. To amend the law relating to promissory oaths.
6. To alter the Petty Debts Act passed in 1869.
7. To regulate the landing and storing of petroleum.
8. To encourage the laying down of water-works in the rural districts.
9. To amend the law for the encouragement of submarine telegraphs.
10. To provide aid towards the Harrison's Free School.
11. To provide aid toward the Codrington College Grammar School.
12. To provide a superannuation fund for officers in the public service.
13. To form the police magistracies into districts.
14. To grant public aid to the Church of the United Brethren (Moravians).

9. *Political Franchise, Councils, and Assembly.*

31. Major-General Munro, C.B., commanding Her Majesty's troops in this Island and throughout the West Indies, was appointed a member of the Council. There was no general election in 1870. The Assembly elected on 8th November, 1869, expired at that date in 1870. The new election did not take place until the 16th January, 1871.

10. *Population.*

32. There was a decrease in the number of baptisms and deaths, the former of which may be accounted for by the emigration which has been in progress, more or less active, for some years past, and which, it has been ascertained, has seriously disturbed the normal condition

of the population; and the latter may be attributed partly to the same cause, and partly to an improvement in the sanitary condition of the Island, which was to be expected from the cessation of the protracted drought, and the consequent amelioration of the circumstances of the labouring classes. The share which these and other causes may have had in influencing the progress of the population cannot be accurately stated on account of the much-to-be-regretted absence of any proper system of registration. The latter inference is fairly drawn from the fact that while there has been a considerable increase of burials in the city of Bridgetown and the surrounding parish, there has been a large diminution in most of the rural districts, viz.:—

	1869.	1870.
Bridgetown and Parish of St. Michael	1,280	1,455
Rest of Island - - - -	2,572	1,990

BAPTISMS.

In 1868 - - - - -	6,563
„ 1869 - - - - - -	6,359
„ 1870 - - - - -	6,028

MARRIAGES.

In 1868 - - - - -	637
„ 1869 - - - - - -	603
„ 1870 - - - - -	620

BURIALS.

In 1868 - - - - -	3,924
„ 1869 - - - - - -	3,852
„ 1870 - - - - -	3,445

33. I have lately had occasion to point out in what respects the above return of baptisms and burials is likely to differ from a correct return of births and deaths. I am enabled on this occasion to submit a summary of an abstract prepared by the officer whose duty it is to make an alphabetical index of all baptisms and burials, digested from the parochial registers for 1870, which confirms this statement, and contains some useful information.

34. His abstract shows a total of 6,667 instead of 6,028 baptisms, being a difference of more than 10 per cent. Of these,

4,706	were of children born in the year 1870
1,726	„ „ „ „ 1869
55	„ „ „ „ 1868
27	„ „ „ „ 1867
74	„ „ „ „ 1866 to 1850
14	„ adults
65	no age was recorded
Total - 6,667	

BARBADOS.

35. Of 3,486 burials recorded, which differs only by an excess of 41 over the above return,

1,120	were stated to be	under	1	year	
718	„	„	from 1	to	5
112	„	„	5	„	10
81	„	„	10	„	15
131	„	„	15	„	20
246	„	„	20	„	30
162	„	„	30	„	40
159	„	„	40	„	50
171	„	„	50	„	60
198	„	„	60	„	70
183	„	„	70	„	80
132	„	„	80	„	90
35	„	„	90	„	100
3	„	„	-	-	100
4	„	„	-	-	105
1	„	„	-	-	106
1	„	„	-	-	110
1	„	„	-	-	120
28	had no age specified				
Total - 3,486					

36. The number stated above to have reached a very advanced age is not altogether incredible, as, by the census of the present year, the number of persons alive above 100 years old was 21, besides perhaps some out of 19 whose ages were not stated.

37. The percentage of burials at each age was as follows:—

	Per cent.		Per cent.
Under 1 year -	32·1	50 to 60 -	4·9
1 to 5 -	20·6	60 „ 70 -	5·7
5 „ 10 -	3·3	70 „ 80 -	5·2
10 „ 15 -	2·4	80 „ 90 -	3·7
15 „ 20 -	3·8	90 „ 100 -	1·0
20 „ 30 -	7·1	Above 100 - -	1·1
30 „ 40 -	4·6		
40 „ 50 -	4·5	Total - - -	100·0

38. The proportion of burials of children under 1 year of age to the baptisms of infants born in 1870 was 23·8, and to those of infants born in 1869 and 1870 it was 15·1 per cent.

39. The percentage proportion of burials to the population living at the same ages, according to the census of 1871 was as follows:—

	Per cent.		Per cent.
Under 1 year -	19·4	40 to 50 -	1·4
1 to 5 -	3·1	50 „ 60 -	2·1
5 „ 10 -	0·5	60 „ 70 -	4·7
10 „ 15 -	0·4	70 „ 80 -	8·7
15 „ 20 -	0·6	80 „ 90 -	29·0
20 „ 30 -	0·9	90 „ 100 -	21·3
30 „ 40 -	1·0	Above 100 - -	48·0

40. I have as yet been unable to compare these results with the mortality tables of other countries and islands similarly situated. I

hope to have obtained the materials for such a comparison before I report upon the census. Meanwhile it is apparent that the mortality among young children calls for examination, and it is not premature to report that the census reveals important and unexpected features, which appear to result from a larger emigration, especially of males, than was supposed to have taken place, and which has reduced the actual population of the Island from the estimated number of 180,000 to the computed number of 161,594.

11. *Education.*

41. The number of aided schools reported in the Blue Book with the number of scholars is,

	Schools.	Scholars.
Public and Church of England	120	10,610
Wesleyan	5	484
Moravian	16	1,475
Total	141	12,569

These figures show a small reduction in the number of schools, and a slight increase in the number of scholars.

42. During the past year the Legislature has evinced a very liberal disposition to aid middle-class education. It has voted a considerable sum towards resuscitating the Harrison Trust Schools, which had fallen into decay; and it has contributed a similar assistance to the Codrington College Grammar School.

43. An effort which I made to enlarge the sphere and increase the usefulness of the Codrington College, by affiliating it with some British University, and thus rendering it capable of conferring degrees as well as testamurs, by appointing additional professors, and aiming at making it a collegiate institution for the surrounding islands, and not, as at present, a small theological school, did not meet with the sympathy of the trustees, and appears to have been entirely misunderstood by the late Principal, to whom my suggestions were referred, and whose opinion is generally supposed to have deserved weight with the trustees. The attention of the Educational Committee is being specially directed to the establishment and extension of infant schools.

12. *Gaols and Crime.*

44. The number of committals in 1869 showed an increase of 30 per cent. above that of 1868, from 3,380 to 4,333. In 1870 the number has diminished in a corresponding proportion, and was the same as in the prosperous year of 1868, viz. 3,388. The adoption of a system of prison discipline, enforced by the use of the treadwheel in the principal convict prison at Glendairy, and of shot-drill in that and the other prisons, is producing a good effect. This is attested in a remarkable manner by the diminution in the number of "recidives." In 1869 the proportion of those who had been committed once, or more frequently, was no less than 39 per cent.; in 1870 it was reduced to 22. Of offenders who had been committed once before, the proportion in 1869 was 17 per cent.; in 1870 it was only 8 per cent.

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Of the more hardened offenders, who had been committed three times or more, the proportion was reduced from 13 to 11 per cent.

Trade and Shipping.

45. I have in previous Reports deprecated any positive conclusions being drawn from the trade returns previous to 1869. The returns, however, of that year and 1870 are sufficiently correct. Those for the two previous years are added for comparison, subject to the above caution.

TOTAL VALUE OF IMPORTS.

	£
In 1867	989,503
„ 1868	1,134,257
„ 1869	1,026,220
„ 1870	1,069,867

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS.

	£
In 1867	1,245,501
„ 1868	1,269,674
„ 1869	935,424
„ 1870	973,020

QUANTITIES AND VALUE OF MUSCOVADO SUGAR EXPORTED.

	Quantities.	Value.
	Hhds.	£
In 1867	51,304	800,970
„ 1868	58,250	857,250
„ 1869	32,150	479,550
„ 1870	39,360	591,990

46. It is customary to measure the crop of the year by the quantity of sugar exported. But what is called the "offal crop," consisting of molasses and rum, must be taken into consideration. In the above four years the value of the quantities of that crop exported, independent of those consumed in the Island, which are by no means inconsiderable, especially of rum, which is not usually exported, amounted to a large percentage upon the value of the sugar crop, viz.: —

VALUE OF EXPORTS OF

	Sugar.	Molasses.	Rum.	Proportion of Molasses and Rum to Sugar.
	£	£	£	
In 1867	800,970	112,027	1,522	14
„ 1868	857,250	137,450	885	16
„ 1869	479,550	160,569	1,244	33
„ 1870	591,990	98,406	4,063	17
Average	682,440	127,113	1,978	19

47. Besides sugar, molasses, and rum, the exports of colonial produce are insignificant. In the last two years they averaged 7,284*l.*, the principal articles being empty packages, which are not really a colonial produce, and lime. The remainder consists of the

transit trade, i. e. merchandise imported chiefly from the United States, Great Britain, and British North America, and re-exported to British Guiana and the neighbouring West Indian Islands. The amount of this trade in the last two years has been:—

	£
In 1869	287,444
„ 1870	270,599

It concerns the merchants and Legislature of Barbados to take care, by the exemption of this class of goods from all unnecessary or excessive charges, commercial and fiscal, to prevent the establishment of the electric telegraph from injuring this branch of the trade of the Island. If charges are kept low, the telegraph is likely to increase the present trade with the Island as a central depôt for foreign goods.

48. The direction of the trade is shown in the following summary of the value of imports and exports in 1870:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
United Kingdom	413,908	544,455
British Colonies	151,252	295,031
Foreign Countries	504,706	133,533

One-half of the imports from the British Colonies consists of lumber, staves, and fish from the British North American Provinces. Two-thirds of the exports are distributed among the West Indies and British Guiana. Two-thirds of the imports from foreign countries consist of provisions, lumber, &c., from the United States; the other third consisted chiefly in 1870 of guano from Peru, and mules from South America. Of the exports to foreign countries five-sixths were shipped to the United States, the rest chiefly to foreign West Indies.

49. The destination of the sugar and molasses during the last two years has been:—

	1869.	1870.
	£	£
To United Kingdom	424,769	525,840
„ United States	134,724	97,791
„ British North America	76,944	64,293
„ Other Countries	3,881	2,626

50. As the returns of shipping may be depended upon for 1870, the following particulars are noticed, which will afford a good general view of the commercial relations of the Island. There is but one port of entry, Bridgetown, in Carlisle Bay. Of vessels entered, there were:—

	No.	Tonnage.	Average size.
British	1,025	97,442	95 tons.
Foreign	236	41,093	174 „
Total	1,261	138,535	269 „

Of the total number, 121, of 14,674 tons, were in ballast. The majority of the latter were chiefly from the West Indies.

51. The difference in the size is owing to the large number of

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schooners and small craft engaged in the intercolonial trade. This is shown in the following statement:—

ENTERED.

From West Indies and Guiana:—

	No.	Tons.	Average size.
British	777	39,055	50 tons.
Foreign	76	3,801	50 „
From other Countries:—			
British	247	58,285	236 „
Foreign	143	35,216	246 „
Whalers	18	2,178	121 „

CLEARED.

To West Indies and Guiana:—

	No.	Tons.	Average size.
British	875	57,270	65 tons.
Foreign	180	30,727	170 „
From other Countries:—			
British	152	39,982	263 „
Foreign	43	9,392	219 „
Whalers	16	1,911	119 „

Some of the above differences are caused by larger vessels, after bringing cargoes from other countries, leaving for other of the West Indies, and by large foreign vessels, seeking, going on to St. Thomas, with the same object.

52. The course of trade is further illustrated by the following percentage of British and foreign tonnage arriving and clearing in ballast:—

ARRIVED.

	With Cargoes.	In Ballast.
British	85·8 per cent.	14·2 per cent.
Foreign	98·1 „	1·9 „
CLEARED.		
British	78·0 „	22·0 „
Foreign	44·0 „	56·0 „

53. Of the total tonnage, there arrived from each country as follows:—

	Per cent.
United States	about 23
United Kingdom	„ 17
British West Indies	„ 16
British North America	„ 10
British Guiana	„ 10
Buenos Ayres	„ 5
Peru	„ 5
All other Countries	„ 14
Total	100

A similar summary of the onnage of vessels clearing for each country is somewhat disturbed by the number of those which go to St. Thomas seeking:—

	Per cent.
British West Indies - -	about 28
Foreign „ - - -	„ 27
United Kingdom - - -	„ 19
United States - - - -	„ 9
British Guiana - - -	„ 8
British North America - -	„ 6
Other Countries - - -	„ 3
Total - - -	100

54. Of the vessels clearing outwards, a larger proportion were in ballast than of those entering:—

	No.	Tonnage.
Entered - -	121	14,674
Cleared - - -	209	44,948

Of the tonnage which entered,

70 per cent. was - - -	British
21 „ „ - - - -	American
4 „ „ - - -	French
5 „ „ - - - -	Other

General Remarks.

55. In the commencement of this Report I pointed out the remarkable approximation between the rainfall and the sugar crops of 1869 and 1870, and in two corresponding years. In concluding my annual Report last year, I estimated the crop of 1870, upon a rainfall of 47 inches in 1869, at 38,000 hhds. But the rainfall was 48·52 inches, which would add 1,200 hhds. (at the rate of 800 hhds. for each inch) to the estimate, making a total of 39,160 hhds. The actual export was 39,360 hhds. The approximation is so close as to go far towards proving the correctness of the formula.

56. The rainfall of 1870 was 60·17 inches, nearly two inches above the average. The crop of 1871, according to the same rule, should be 48,160 hhds. It has reached 53,679 hhds. up to the present date, and will probably not stop short of 54,000 hhds. The crop has proved unexpectedly large. The public estimate did not exceed 50,000. I attribute the large excess to the equal and favourable distribution of the rain during the latter half of 1870, and to the great dryness during the time of making the crop of the present year. These favourable circumstances would justify an increase over the average of 800 hhds. to the inch. An increase to the maximum yield yet observed, which was 886 hhds. to an inch after the very small rainfall of 1858, would bring it to within 500 hhds. of the yield. This crop may therefore be taken to be an exceptionally good one, having only been exceeded in the years 1866 and 1868, as regards actual quantity, and not having been exceeded in any as regards the proportion of the crop to the rainfall.

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57. I had proposed to add some further information in this year's Report regarding the rainfall of the Island. But I have found my materials, and the conclusions to be drawn from them, increase so much in extent and importance, that I must adopt a different channel for recording the information.

58. At the close of 1870 the prospects of the following year were favourable, and notwithstanding a great want of rain in the first seven months, they have maintained their character generally up to the present time. It will be safe to predict that, if nothing untoward should happen, the crop of 1872 will also be a good one.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) RAWSON W. RAWSON, Governor.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

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No. 8.

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor RENNIE to Governor RAWSON, C.B.

(No. 80.) Government House, St. Vincent,
September 8, 1871.

SIR,

THE Blue Book for 1870, which I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency in duplicate, comprises a period long antecedent to my arrival in this Colony, and the Report thereon is therefore made by the Colonial Secretary.

I only assumed the Government in June last, and had I attempted to review the working and prospects of the Colony for the past year, I should have done so from experience gained at a later period, and thus have forestalled to a certain extent the Report that will be required a few months hence in considering the Blue Book of the present year.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. H. RENNIE.

Governor Rawson, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 8.

Enclosure 1 in No. 8.

SIR, St. Vincent, September 6, 1871.

In placing the Blue Book for 1870 before your Excellency, I append, in compliance with your suggestions, a few remarks upon it.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The general revenue for the year (22,365*l.*) was not quite as much as that for 1869; this was partly owing to diminished imports, but chiefly to the fact that the operation of the new Excise Act of 1869 brought into the revenue of that year a considerable amount of

duty on rum consumed in the previous year, while in 1870 the duty received was confined to the consumption of the year.

The expenditure for the general service of the year (21,793*l.*) was greater than in 1869. This was caused by an addition to the establishments in the appointment of the Colonial Engineer, by grants to the several religious denominations, and by a special grant for compensation to those persons whose houses were pulled down to prevent the spread of the fire which occurred in Kingstown in 1866.

The actual balance at the credit of the general revenue at the close of the year was 6,627*l.*; in addition to which sums of 1,237*l.* and 98*l.* were due to it by the Immigration and Town Funds.

The fund specially raised under the Troops Tax Acts for the maintenance in this Island of Her Majesty's troops, amounted to 5,609*l.*; of which 5,055*l.* was expended for this service, and the balance lapsed into the general revenue.

The receipts of the Immigration Fund, including the sum of 867*l.* contributed from the general revenue, amounted to 2,779*l.* The expenditure, inclusive of 1,400*l.* remitted to Her Majesty's Emigration Commissioners in London towards the expenses in India of a cargo of Coolies then ordered, was 2,917*l.*; the difference being advanced from the general revenue as a loan.

The revenue of the town of Kingstown was 733*l.*, and the expenditure 555*l.*, showing a balance at credit of 178*l.*; but the sum of 555*l.* included 98*l.* which was paid on account of the Kingstown Water-works, and is chargeable at present to the general revenue as an advance, in part, of the loan to be made to the town for carrying out the works, which loan is to be recouped by rates to be levied on the town when the works shall be completed. The actual balance therefore of Kingstown revenue available for improvements in the town was 276*l.*

Public Debt.

The Colony had no debt. On the other hand, at 31st December, 1870, the Immigration Fund owed the general revenue 1,237*l.*, and the town of Kingstown owed it 98*l.*

Public Works.

No public works of importance were undertaken in 1870. The Governor's residence, at the Garden, was repaired and painted, but much was still left to be done to it. The trace of an ancient road through the interior of the Island, was partially explored and opened, but not sufficiently to allow of its being used for traffic. The most important action taken under this head was the sending of the first order to the Crown Agents for the pipes and other materials required for the Kingstown Water-works.

Legislation.

Sixteen Acts were passed during the Legislative Session; the most important of which were, the Act to provide water for Kingstown; the Act to grant a subsidy to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company (Limited), for the establishment of telegraphic communication between this Island, the other West India Colonies, America, and

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Europe; and the Hospital Act, which removed that institution from the direction of an irresponsible Board, and placed it under the immediate control of the Colonial Surgeon, who, in future, will be directly responsible to the Governor for its proper management.

Savings Bank.

There were 191 depositors in the Savings Bank during the year, and the sum of 1,329*l.* was on deposit at the end of 1870. The value of this bank is gradually being appreciated by the class for whom it was intended. Several Coolie immigrants have placed their savings in it.

Education.

The schools continued to show an increase in the number of scholars; and the sum granted for education from the public funds was more than equalled by the voluntary aid contributed.

Imports and Exports.

The imports for the year (137,474*l.*) were less in value by 7,892*l.* than in 1869; but the exports (221,139*l.*) were 29,395*l.* in excess. The value of the exported produce and manufactures of the Colony was 212,779*l.*

Agriculture.

The return of the produce of the Colony shows a marked improvement. The sugar crop exceeded that of 1869 by 1816 hogsheads, the quantity shipped being equal to 12,977 hogsheads. The rum exported was 2,158 puncheons, being 1,800 puncheons in excess of the previous year's exports; on the other hand the molasses was less by 2,146 puncheons. The great variation in these two productions arose in this way: in 1869 the owners of estates, in dread of the imagined severity of the new Excise Law, gave up the distillation of rum in 26 distilleries, and shipped their molasses in its raw state, but in 1870 these distilleries renewed operations, and the molasses was made into rum. The arrowroot exported was 10,438 barrels, being a decrease on the previous year of 1,115 barrels.

Crime.

The commitments to gaol were 387 as against 378 in 1869; but the majority of these were from the Magistrates' Courts for minor offences, and for debts under 5*l.*; the convictions for graver offences tried in the Superior Court were over 50 per cent. less than in the previous year.

Hospital.

The cases treated in the Colonial hospital were 207 in number; the daily average in hospital was 26; and the deaths were 22. This compares favourably with the previous year; the mortality, whether calculated upon the admissions, or upon the daily average or bed-rate, being less.

Conclusion.

From the preceding observations it will be seen that the results of the past year fully support Lieut.-Governor Berkeley's repeated statements that the Colony was gradually, but steadily, improving its position. With a continuous stream of immigration there is reason to hope that the impetus already given to agriculture will increase, and that the lands still lying waste and profitless will become arable and valuable fields. Much, however, of the progress of the Colony must be attributed to the beneficial change made in the Constitution in 1868, which brought the management of its finances, and the regulation of its public institutions, more immediately under the control of the Governor.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) EDWARD LABORDE,

Colonial Secretary.

Lieut.-Governor Rennie,

&c. &c. &c.

P.S.—I annex, as has been customary, a copy of my Report and returns of births, marriages, and deaths for 1870.

E. L.

Enclosure 2 in No. 8.

Enclosure 2 in No. 8.

Colonial Secretary's Office, St. Vincent,

March 6, 1871.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit to your Excellency the Abstracts of the Registry of Births, Marriages, and Deaths for the year 1870.

The births were 1,738 in number, and the deaths 1,149; exhibiting an increase to the population of 589; distributed in the several districts as follows:—Kingstown, 107; Calliaqua, 170; Windward, 162; Leeward, 105; and the Grenadines, 45.

The birth rate was 4·9-10ths, the death rate 3·3-10ths per cent. of the population. The birth rate of the white population was 3·7-10ths, and the death rate 3·5-10ths per cent.

The proportion of illegitimate births in the year was nearly 60 per cent., being far in excess of last year's proportion, though slightly below what it had been in some previous years. In the Kingstown District the proportion was 55 per cent.; in the Calliaqua, 61; in the Windward, 61; in the Leeward, 60; and in the Grenadines, 63 per cent.

The proportion of deaths, in the year, of infants under one year of age was 26·2-10ths per cent.; of children of one, and under three years of age, 17·7-10ths; of three, and under five years of age, 4 1-10th; of five and under 15 years of age, 5·4-10ths; the mortality under 15 years being 53·6-10ths per cent.

The causes of death in the years 1869 and 1870 vary slightly. The prevalence of whooping cough in the last half-year of 1870 added largely to the deaths under the head of "diseases of the lungs, &c.," and more than accounts for the increased mortality in this year.

The marriages in 1870 exceeded by 39 the number registered in 1869. The Ministers of the Church of England solemnized 53½ per

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cent. of the whole number; the Ministers of the Church of Rome 10 per cent.; the Wesleyan Ministers 34 per cent.; and the Presbyterian Minister 2½ per cent.

The census to be taken on the 9th April now ensuing will afford fresh and reliable data on which to base fair calculations of the increase or decrease, and changes in the population of the Colony. As I mentioned in my Report on the abstracts of 1867, my calculations since the year 1865 have been based on the census of 1861, without the means of correction for the variations between that year and 1864. By the registration returns since 1864, calculated on the census of 1861, the population should now be 34,774; but it is reasonable to suppose that between 1861 and 1864 a proportionate increase was added; which, with the immigration that has taken place, ought to give as the result of the approaching census a gross population of about 37,500; and it will be interesting to see how far this calculation will be borne out.

I have, &c.,

Lieut.-Governor Berkeley, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) EDWARD LABORDE,
Colonial Secretary and Registrar-General of Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

GRENADA.

GRENADA.

No 9.

No. 9.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor FREELING to Governor RAWSON, C.B.

(No. 62.)

SIR, Government House, September 23, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of Grenada for 1870.

2. As I only arrived here in June last, I requested the Colonial Secretary to prepare a Report thereon, which I herewith forward.

3. I regret the lateness in transmitting these statistics, but the fault is not attributable to the Colonial Secretary's department but to that of the Treasury, as reported in my Despatch, No. 57, of the 8th June.

4. I shall for the future take care that the delay does not again occur.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) S. FREELING, Lieut.-Governor.

Governor Rawson, C.B., &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 9.

Enclosure in No. 9.

SIR, Colonial Secretary's Office, Grenada, September 18, 1871.

I have the honour to present to your Excellency the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1870, with a Report thereon as follows.

Revenue.

The total revenue collected during the year amounted to 23,106*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, made up as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs	11,109	3	11
Tonnage	713	6	11
Excise	4,160	12	11
Licences	1,793	3	6
Fees and Fines	1,691	10	10
Post Office	156	16	11
Assessed Taxes	3,175	6	7
Miscellaneous	305	19	6
	£23,106	1	1

The arrears of revenue for the previous year, amounting to 1,878*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*, made the total available sum for the service of the year 1870, 24,984*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*

The expenditure of the several establishments was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Civil	3,127	0	11
Judicial	3,669	9	4
Ecclesiastical	1,899	0	8
Legislature	638	16	0
Education	1,278	19	2
Sanitary and Poor Relief	2,695	14	6
Police and Gaols	3,110	3	2
Roads and Works	3,623	15	4
Pensions	54	8	4
Miscellaneous	726	14	9
	£20,824	2	2

Leaving a surplus towards the credit of 1871, of 4,160*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*

The subjoined Table exhibits a statement of the revenue and expenditure for the last seven years, this period comprising the tenure of office of Major Mundy over the affairs of the Government of this Colony.

REVENUE.

1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
20,095 8 10	20,341 12 2	21,139 16 0	19,983 13 9	21,740 19 7	23,140 14 0	23,106 1 1

EXPENDITURE.

17,234 13 5	19,756 10 4	21,203 17 5	25,686 19 1	21,920 9 0	21,265 12 8	20,824 2 2

The taxation of the Colony for the ordinary purposes of revenue for 1870 is at the rate of 12*s.* 3*d.* per head.

Local Revenues.

Immigration Fund.—The amount at the credit of this fund was 5,741*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* No immigrants were introduced in the Colony during the year.

The revenue and expenditure under this head of the last seven years were as follows:—

REVENUE.

1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
3,544 16 7	3,639 3 4	3,673 15 9	3,751 0 1	4,602 5 2	2,880 18 10	2,213 9 4

EXPENDITURE.

1,166 12 0	1,312 3 4	4,507 11 9	4,880 16 8	5,099 9 5	3,592 5 11	1,429 9 11

The last batch of Coolies imported in this Colony was in 1866. In 1867, 1868, 1869, bounties were paid to those who had completed their term of industrial residence, and entitled to return passages to India, and willing to reindenture for a further term of five years.

In 1868, the first return batch of 76 Coolies was sent from this Colony.

The amount of savings deposited for remittance to India was 804*l.* 14*s.*

Water Fund.—The balance at the credit of this fund was 1,659*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* The annual revenue is at present derived from a tax on shipping, which amounts to 192*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*; and the expenditure, amounting to 43*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*, is for superintending, repairing, and upholding the works.

In the year 1868, Lieut.-Governor Mundy called the attention of the Legislature to the inadequate supply of water in the town of St. George, and suggested the desirability of contracting a loan for introducing a wholesome supply of water from some other source by which the upper portion of the town and its immediate neighbourhood, which do not now derive the benefit, might be supplied.

A Bill for the purpose has been before the Legislature during the last year. It is now before the Assembly for certain amendments proposed by the Council to the Bill, and agreed to by the House; and I have no doubt by the time the surveyor arrives the amendments will be made, and the Bill brought into operation.

Public Debt.—The only debt due by the Colony is that contracted in July, 1858, from the Rock Life Assurance Company for 7,000*l.*, guaranteed by Imperial Statute, 11 & 12 Vict., cap. 130, redeemable in 20 years, bearing interest at 4 per cent. per annum.

This loan was raised for immigration purposes, and is secured on the revenue raised for that purpose; and in case of deficiency, on the general revenues of the Colony. One-twentieth part of this loan is annually set aside to establish a sinking fund. The amount of

stock to the credit of the sinking fund was 5805*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* on 31st December last.

Public Works, Roads, &c.—The amount expended under this head was 1,612*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* for repairs to the lunatic asylum, and other urgent repairs to some of the public buildings. The dilapidated state of the several Court-houses and other public buildings still call for early attention.

The sum of 2,011*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* appears also to have been applied to the repairs of 120 miles of public roads, equal to 15*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* per mile. This work, I regret to state, has only been inartistically and unsatisfactorily performed, and without doubt the money wastefully applied.

Legislation.

Little or no progress or improvement in legislation has been made during the year. The Legislature was only in session for 16 days, and passed four Acts, entitled as follows:—

No. 414, "An Act for the Payment of Costs in Proceedings "instituted on behalf of the Crown in matters relating to the "Revenue."

No. 415, "An Act to alter the Rate of Duty upon Rum."

No. 416, "An Act to reduce the Fees payable on the Indentures "of Female Immigrants, and to repeal a portion of the 4th section "of the Immigration Act, 1869."

No. 417, "An Act for the Appointment of a Surveyor of Public "Works, and for the establishment of Local Road Boards."

The most important of these Acts is that for the appointment of a Surveyor of Public Works, a measure which has for several years, previous to its passing, been advocated by the Executive, and one which with an active and zealous man in the office cannot be otherwise than productive of much benefit and advantage to the community at large.

Population.

The estimated population to 31st December last was 37,795. The number of births registered was 1,481, and of deaths, 843, giving an increase of population of 638, or 1·71 per cent. The birth rate was 3·98 per cent., and the death rate, 2·26.

The number of marriages solemnized during the year was 206.

The following shows the birth and death rates for the last five years:—

BIRTHS.

1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
4·16	4·05	4·14	4·43	3·98

DEATHS.

2·76	2·69	2·48	2·66	2·26

Education.

A steady increase in the number attending the Grammar and Normal Schools, and in the several schools throughout the Colony receiving Government aid, appears, with the exception of those of the Roman Catholics, where a decrease is shown of 88 scholars as compared with the previous year. The total increase is 555 scholars.

The return shows an aggregate number of 2,529 scholars attending all the public schools in the Colony, being equal to 6·69 per cent. of the population. The sum of 1,278*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* is applied from the general funds towards the support of these schools, equal to 18 per cent. of the revenue.

The subjoined Table shows more readily the state and progress of the schools for the last seven years.

SCHOOLS.

Years.	Grammar School.	Normal School.	Church of England.	Wesleyans.	Roman Catholic.	Total.
1864	Nil.	Nil.	729	375	761	1,865
1865	23	52	759	349	473	1,656
1866	7	46	641	267	457	1,418
1867	26	59	738	419	376	1,618
1868	30	58	928	345	431	1,792
1869	28	63	988	301	594	1,974
1870	30	87	1,355	571	506	2,529

Imports and Exports.

A large decrease in value of 43,898*l.* is apparent in the imports from the United Kingdom as compared with the previous year, and this would forcibly point to the impolicy of levying a high rate of duty. The ad valorem duty had for the year under review been doubled that of the preceding period. The decrease in imported articles appears principally in silks, linens, cottons, woollens, ironmongery, plantation stores, oils, grain, spirits, and wines.

There has been a slow but gradual increase in the productions of the Colony; the value of exports shows 5,213*l.* increase over that of 1869. The value of sugar, the principal product of the Island, is placed at 54,328*l.*; and it is remarkable, that of cocoa at 50,406*l.*

The following Tables show the direction of trade, and the value of imports and exports for the last seven years.

B.

Imports.

Countries.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom - -	65,832 3 7	56,919 7 2	52,115 0 4	51,657 7 7	49,804 7 3	98,331 12 0	54,433 9 5
British Colonies - - -	43,155 11 4	44,899 18 0	56,164 4 9	44,005 11 7	44,121 12 4	41,589 4 0	35,914 12 11
United States - - -	11,307 8 2	9,917 1 2	12,140 8 4	13,840 14 0	12,507 8 2	32,836 16 8	10,796 9 6
Other foreign countries - -	1,018 16 1	2,374 13 10	1,835 16 11	2,414 4 8	2,333 11 0	3,719 13 6	3,330 8 0
Totals - - £	121,313 19 2	114,111 0 2	122,255 10 4	111,917 17 10	108,766 18 9	176,477 6 2	104,474 19 10

Exports.

Countries.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom - -	140,370 14 3	97,476 18 8	98,687 12 11½	99,781 17 5	89,130 1 0	104,448 4 5	114,154 7 6
British Colonies - - -	4,900 12 7	14,335 18 11	12,569 1 1½	11,955 14 8	10,995 10 6	12,387 15 7	7,936 3 4
United States - - -	936 19 10	335 5 6	417 8 10	665 0 4	— —	135 8 4	320 2 0
Other foreign countries -	7,006 14 10	5,897 7 11	1,563 2 9	3,796 18 6	3,769 13 9	5,000 6 3	4,773 18 0
Totals - - £	153,215 1 6	118,045 11 0	113,237 5 8	116,199 10 11	103,895 5 3	121,971 14 7	127,184 10 10

The produce of whales captured within this Government was 11,520 gallons, valued at 1,296*l.*

In shipping there has been a decrease of 71 vessels, equal to 2,349 tons, entered during the year, and also a decrease of 17 vessels cleared; but an increase appears in tonnage of 2,950.

Agriculture.

Some improvement is apparent in the agriculture of the country. Several sugar estates having changed ownerships, are now in the hands of resident proprietors. A greater spirit is manifested in extending the cultivation of the sugar-cane. Estates are advancing in value, and a better tone is everywhere apparent in the agricultural prospects of the country; but to be successful, the progress of development must be accompanied by a steady supply to our labouring population.

No improvement, however, has yet been made in the manufacturing processes.

The extended cultivation of cocoa is shown in the yearly increased quantity exported from the Colony, the increase over that of 1869 being 191 tons.

The following return exhibits the quantity of sugar, cocoa, and cotton shipped during the last seven years.

Return of sugar, cocoa, and cotton shipped from 1864 to 1870:—

C.

Years.	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Cotton.
	tons.	tons.	tons.
1864 - -	4,492	477	77
1865 - -	3,928	577	182
1866 - -	5,360	637	87
1867 - -	4,005	761	133
1868 - -	4,084	743	22
1869 - -	3,254	889	59
1870 - -	3,880	1,080	169

Gaol and Prisons.

The Provost Marshal reports that "no further steps have been "taken to continue the improvements begun in 1866. The prison "affords ample accommodation for the number of prisoners committed, "but the objectionable system of association prevails, and no attempt "at a separate system can be made until the prison is reconstructed." This state of the gaol has from time to time been forcibly brought to the attention and consideration of the Legislature by the Executive; and to continue the improvements required to adapt it to the separate system, the Legislature, in March, 1869, granted a further sum of 500*l.* towards the reconstruction of the gaol, but the work has been postponed from the absence of a properly qualified person to undertake it.

I herewith subjoin a return of convictions of the Supreme Court and of Magistrates for the last seven years, as well as of debtors.

D.

RETURN OF CONVICTIONS.

Years.	Supreme Court.		Magistrates.		Total.	Debtors.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		
1864 - -	16	1	171	32	220	18
1865 - -	8	5	152	41	206	30
1866 - -	16	1	178	36	231	17
1867 - -	16	1	153	39	209	25
1868 - -	12	1	122	27	162	32
1869 - -	13	2	115	31	161	29
1870 - -	14	..	140	53	207	6

Conclusion.

As the period embraced in this Report about closes with the administration of this Government by Lieut.-Governor Mundy, I hope it may not be out of place to bring under notice some of the several measures of importance brought into operation under his administration.

During this period he succeeded in replacing the educational system on the basis which it had some time before occupied, and from which it had been allowed to lapse. The departments of the Treasury, Post Office, and Police Magistracy throughout the Colony, have also been satisfactorily placed on a footing of permanent efficiency, as well as the whole civil list of the country.

The system for the registration of births and deaths. The regulation of weights and measures, in uniformity with those of the United Kingdom, have been accomplished. A code of criminal laws, in adaptation of that of the mother-country, established. An amended and consolidated Immigration Act, under which the objections of the Imperial Government to the continuance of immigration to the Colony have been removed, and immigration from India again permitted to be ressumed. The Act for the appointment of a Surveyor of Public Works, which had long since been forcibly urged upon the Legislature as a measure urgently required for the purpose of keeping in proper and scientific repair the public roads and buildings. The establishment of telegraphic communication with these Islands and Great Britain, recently passed after much opposition, which since 1864 he recommended to the Legislature as a scheme worthy its consideration. The advantages to be derived by the commercial and other interests of the Island, he stated, would more than compensate the outlay required.

Of other measures of prominent importance recommended by him, which have not yet been brought into operation, is the consolidation, republication, and revision of our laws, by which, among other important statutes, the Act for the Administration of Justice in the Supreme Court of Judicature might be simplified. The revision of the Board of Health Act, and making provision for the sanitary condition of the dwellings of the inhabitants, for providing medicines and other necessaries, and additional medical practitioners in case of any epidemic disease appearing in the Island. The condition of the

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gaol, which requires reconstruction to enable the separate system to be adopted. The abolition of imprisonment for debt, and making provision for the relief of insolvent debtors. The want of an abundant supply of water into the town of St. George, for the promotion of the public health, and the protection of the town in case of fire.

* * * * *

In conclusion, it is satisfactory to note that crime of a serious description is on the decrease, the conduct of the population peaceable and orderly, and the public health during the past year satisfactory.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) S. MITCHELL, Colonial Secretary.

Lieut.-Governor Freeling,
&c. &c. &c.

TOBAGO.

TOBAGO.

No. 10.

No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor RAWSON, C.B., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 45.) Windward Islands, Barbados,
MY LORD, November 28, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of the Blue Book for the Colony of Tobago for 1870, together with the Lieutenant-Governor's Report thereon.

I have, &c.,
The Earl of Kimberley, (Signed) RAWSON W. RAWSON.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 10.

Enclosure in No. 10.

Lieut.-Governor KORTRIGHT to Governor RAWSON, C.B.

(No. 62.)
SIR, Government House, Tobago, November 9, 1871.

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1870.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The total revenue amounted to 12,177*l.* 14*s.* In this amount is, however, included the duty on exports levied solely for immigration purposes, amounting to 1,061*l.* 9*s.* The actual revenue for general purposes was 11,116*l.* 5*s.*, showing an increase of 1,215*l.* 12*s.* 11½*d.* as compared with the preceding year. There was a larger trade in 1870 than in 1869, and the Act imposing a duty on rum consumed

in the Colony, which yielded only 231*l.* 6*s.* in 1869, expired, and a licence on stills was substituted, which produced 405*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* in 1870.

The expenditure for the year for general purposes was 10,762*l.* 2*s.* 7½*d.*, in excess of the expenditure of 1869 by 947*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*

Public Debt.

The last instalment of the hurricane loan, amounting to 691*l.* 9*s.*, originally 20,000*l.*, contracted for the relief of the sufferers in the hurricane of 1847, was paid to her Majesty's Government in 1870, and the Colony is now free of debt.

Public Buildings.

No works of any importance were undertaken in 1870. The usual necessary repairs were made to several public buildings, and some of the bridges were improved by increasing their width.

Legislation.

Eight Acts were passed in the two sessions of the Legislature. The most important were those for providing funds for the service of the Government for 1871. The Act, 33 Vict., cap. 13, "An Act "to raise a Duty on Exports, and to apply the same for the purposes "of Immigration," may also be regarded as a measure of great importance to the interests of the Colony.

Political Franchise.

The Franchise Act was passed on the 8th June, 1860. The qualification for a representative for the House of Assemby is a seizin in fee of real property in his own right or that of his wife, or possession of a clear yearly income of 150*l.* The qualification of a voter is seizin or possession of real property within the parish or town for which election shall be held valued on the valuation roll at an annual rental or value of 10*l.* and upwards. Managers or overseers occupying a house on an estate valued at an annual rental of 150*l.* are entitled to vote.

There are nine electoral divisions which return sixteen representatives. The number of registered voters at last election was 215, of whom 91 voted. In the parish of St. John the two representatives were returned by the vote of one person.

Education.

There are twelve week-day and infant schools in connection with the Church of England, and seven Sunday-schools. The number of scholars attending the week-day and infant schools is 589, and the average attendance in the Sunday-schools 427; making a total of 1,016. The Moravians have 7 schools, and return the attendance at 885.

The number of Wesleyan schools is also 7, with an attendance of 518 scholars. The total number of children receiving education, exclusive of those attending Sunday-schools, is 1,992.

The remarks made by the Rev. Mr. Hutson, in page 175 of the

TOBAGO.

Blue Book, are calculated, without an explanation, to mislead with respect to the grant of the Colonial Government for educational purposes. Mr. Hutson remarks that the Colony ought to give at least 100*l.* for the Church of England schools, and that he only gets 30*l.* for the support of four schools. The Colonial grant is 300*l.* a year, equally divided among the three religious denominations. Mr. Hutson may receive only 30*l.* as his share of the grant; but it must be observed that he has charge of the schools in two parishes only, St. Andrews and St. George, and 70*l.* a year is the sum appropriated to the schools in the other five parishes of the Colony.

Imports and Exports.

The value of imports in 1870 was 61,448*l.*, on which the gross amount of duty received was 6,675*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*

The value of exports, produced and manufactured in the Colony, was 82,377*l.* of British, foreign, and other Colonial produce and manufacture. The value is estimated at 239*l.*, making a total of 82,616*l.*

Agriculture.

I feel justified in stating that a marked improvement has taken place in agriculture. The cane cultivation has been extended, and the manufacture of sugar has been conducted on a more careful and scientific principle than in previous years. The value of machinery imported in 1870 was 5,801*l.* In 1869 it was 2,009*l.*

Gaols and Prisons.

There is only one prison, named the Common Gaol of Tobago, at Fort King George, Scarborough. The total number of prisoners committed during the year was 226. Six of them were white men; no white women were committed. Of the males, black or coloured, 64 could read, and 118 could not read. Fourteen males could read, and twenty-four were entirely uneducated. The cases of sickness did not amount to more than thirty-eight during the year, few of a serious character. One death only occurred.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. H. KORTRIGHT.

Governor Rawson, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from The OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT to Governor RAWSON, C.B.

(No. 62.) Government Office, St. Lucia,
August 2, 1871.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of St. Lucia for the year 1870; and I subjoin a Report upon the condition and prospects of the Colony.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) G. W. DES VŒUX,
Administrator of the Government.

Governor Rawson, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 11.

REPORT.

Legislation.

1. Five Ordinances were passed during the year, of which two only deserve notice here.

2. Ordinance No. 4 is a Quarantine Law, embodying the provisions of the Model Act recommended by the Secretary of State for general adoption, together with others required by local circumstances.

3. Ordinance No. 5 is a measure passed in consequence of an insurrection in Martinique, and the subsequently disturbed state of that Colony. The people of the two islands being closely connected by ties of blood and nationality, strengthened by frequent intercourse and intermarriages, no disturbance can take place in the one without corresponding excitement on the other. The landing here of a number of armed refugees gave some cause to fear the spread of disaffection. While the law is in force all persons on their arrival from Martinique are required under penalty to report themselves at the nearest police-station, and to deliver up their arms. The law can be suspended, or brought into force by resolution of the Governor in Council.

4. Owing to my absence from the Colony on other duty during several months in the latter part of the year, a number of measures which, under other circumstances, would probably have been introduced in 1870, were postponed until this year. On this account their particular description belongs to the next Annual Report. But as it is some months since they passed the Legislature, and some of them are already in successful operation, it may be well to explain now their scope and principal objects. They include, among others—

5. (1) An Ordinance to alter the constitution and amend the practice of the Tribunal of Appeal, the Court in which are heard appeals from the decisions of the magistrates. The judgeship of the

ST. LUCIA.

Court is abolished as a separate office, and is henceforward to be held ex officio by the Chief Justice. Among other provisions respecting the proceedings of the Court is one precluding, except in certain specified cases, the production of fresh evidence in appeal; a right which, as hitherto unrestricted, tended to encourage perjury.

6. (2) An Ordinance regulating the rights and duties of masters and servants. The law hitherto in force on this subject was established by the Orders in Council, passed with immediate reference to the recently emancipated slaves in several Crown Colonies. The new law, while embodying all their more important provisions, contains a number of others adapted to the needs of the present time, and suggested either by general experience or local circumstances. It is hoped that misconduct and breaches of faith on the part of both employers and employed will be more effectually checked and more surely punished. I may add that this law, which has been already five months in operation, appears to be fulfilling these objects, and is, I am informed, giving general satisfaction.

7. (3) An Ordinance intended to reduce the legal costs connected with judicial sales of real property. The excessive amount of these costs had for many years formed a subject of general complaint, and had been repeatedly noticed in the Legislature. They rendered small properties almost worthless as securities for money, and seriously depreciated the value of all. A return furnished by the Provost Marshal shows that they have occasionally amounted to more than 100 per cent. of the proceeds of sale, leaving nothing at all even for mortgagees. In the five years ending 1867 their average proportion to the whole proceeds was 27 per cent., and, four large properties excluded, 44 per cent.

8. The provisions of the new measure I leave for description in the next Annual Report; but I may mention here that they are already producing effect. The creditors of an estate which was sold last month by order of the Court, and realized 6,500*l.*, will receive about 500*l.* more than they would have done in former years. The public treasury also will gain to the extent of 90*l.*

9. (4) An Ordinance providing for a new office, of which the incumbent is termed "Colonial Trustee." This office is to unite the functions hitherto belonging to the "Administrator of Crown Property" with others previously discharged, or intended to be discharged, by persons appointed at the discretion of the Court. The duties comprise the charge of all Crown property, including vacant successions; and the administration of the estates of bankrupts, unrepresented absentees, and, in certain cases, of lunatics and other insane persons. It is anticipated under the new law the Government and others interested will be more secure than heretofore of obtaining their rights. At all events, there will be an opportunity of seeing accounts, and of learning the manner in which assets have been disposed of.

10. (5) An Ordinance granting an annual subsidy of 500*l.* to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company (Limited). The subsidy is to continue for ten years, conditionally upon the maintenance of effective communication with the neighbouring islands and with the main land.

11. (6) An Ordinance to induce continued residence on the part of the Indian immigrants who have commuted for bounty their right to free return passage. By this law the immigrants are offered a renewed right of return passage for themselves and their children after eight years' further residence. No contract is required on their part beyond an undertaking to remain in the Colony, to register themselves periodically, and to occupy themselves solely in agricultural pursuits. It is hoped that the above offer will not only retain all the Indian immigrants who are still here, but will induce the return of others who have left in the expectation (I believe a vain one) of acquiring in other Colonies the right which they are now offered here.

12. (7) An Ordinance establishing a Government Savings Bank. There was previously no institution of the kind in the Island.

13. (8) An Ordinance to provide for the better care of the sick poor, and for the regulation of out-door relief. The chief object of this law is to reduce the high rate of infant mortality adverted to in my Report for 1869. For this and other kindred purposes the medical staff of the Island is increased, and the officers are required to attend at fixed times and places, and to give gratuitous advice and medicine.

14. The general rate of mortality, though not high (being exclusive of still-births, between 23 and 24 in the 1,000), might also probably be reduced; for the Registration Returns show that of every eight persons who have died only one on the average has been attended by a medical man.

15. In order to effect this object the Ordinance contains, besides that mentioned above, a provision for auxiliary hospitals in the country districts, and regulations applicable to all hospitals for a new system of management and inspection. Under the new system the existing "charitable institutions" are intended to become hospitals in the modern sense, instead of, as they have heretofore been, mere asylums for the destitute and incurable. Persons of these classes will now be maintained as out-patients, or upon "out-door relief"; for which also new regulations are provided, both as to the manner of granting it, and the means of recovering the cost from natural supporters.

16. The cost of the new measure is made a charge upon the general revenue, and not upon local funds—an expedient which, though adopted for convenience and almost by necessity, may, I think, be justified on economical grounds. Where increase of population is, as here, so universally required, each life saved is a benefit to the whole community.

17. (9) An Ordinance to provide for the appointment of a colonial engineer, and for the due construction, care, and repair of public works, buildings, roads, and bridges.

18. (10) An Ordinance for the appointment of a colonial surveyor, and for the regulation of surveys.

19. The titles of the two last Ordinances sufficiently explain their scope and objects. As their provisions are very numerous, a fuller description must be postponed until the next Annual Report, to which it will rightly belong.

ST. LUCIA.

Revenue and Expenditure.

20. The following Table shows the revenue of the Colony in the years 1870 and 1869 respectively:—

	1870.			1869.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
General Revenue - - -	15,869	0	7	14,982	19	0
Roads and Bridges Fund - -	1,647	10	10	1,256	0	6
Immigration Fund - - -	2,194	14	8	1,816	15	2
Education Fund - - -	606	1	5	719	6	1
Casual Revenue of the Crown -	153	0	3	205	8	2
Harbour Dredge Fund - -	161	9	10	161	19	0
	£20,629	17	9	£19,142	7	11

21. The total revenue of 1870 was the largest ever raised in the Colony in any year of which we have a record, and shows an increase as compared with that of 1869 of 1,487*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, or at the rate of nearly 8 per cent., the taxation remaining the same. The items of general revenue which show the chief improvement are "import duties," "tonnage dues," "rum duty," and "licences," the increase being mainly owing to an unusually large sugar crop, sold for more than average prices. Fluctuations in the amount and value of this staple produce a great effect upon the import trade, and upon the consumption of excisable spirits in nearly all the West Indian Colonies. But that effect is likely to be here both greater and more immediate than elsewhere, because the proprietors being for the most part resident, the profits of cultivation are to a greater extent spent on the spot.

22. The large sugar crop was also the cause of the increased revenue of the roads and immigration funds, of which the latter is almost exclusively, and the former mainly supplied by an export tax on the produce of sugar estates.

23. The reduced income of the education fund is entirely owing to the small amount produced by the fines and penalties applied to this fund—a circumstance which, as indicating decreased or lessened gravity of offences, is by no means an unmixed evil.

24. The following Table shows the expenditure during the years 1870 and 1869:—

	1870.			1869.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
General Expenditure - -	14,602	6	1	13,637	17	2
Roads and Bridges Fund - -	1,615	7	0	896	4	10
Immigration Fund - -	2,319	15	3	1,293	2	5
Education Fund (exclusive of grant of 500*l.* from General Revenue, included under General Expenditure) - -	919	9	0	403	19	5
Casual Revenue of the Crown -	5	10	0	400	0	0
Harbour Dredge Fund - -	86	19	11	116	19	5
	£19,549	7	3	£16,748	3	3

There is thus in the expenditure of 1870 an excess as compared with that of 1869 of 2,801*l.* 4*s.*

25. The increased general expenditure was chiefly owing—1st, to more admissions into the hospitals, and more generous diet; and, 2ndly, to the reward for the destruction of poisonous snakes, first offered in 1870 and claimed to the extent of 326*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*

26. The excess in the item "Roads and Bridges" is owing partly to repairs, necessitated by an unusually heavy rainfall following a long drought, and partly owing to improvements of an unusual kind on the roads. These were made on the suggestion of a competent civil engineer, who was on a visit to the Island.

27. "Immigration" cost more in 1870, on account of the payment of bounties in lieu of return passages to a number of immigrants whose terms of residence expired in that year. There were no payments of this kind in 1869, and as the total amount in 1870 was 1,102*l.*, the whole excess in the item is accounted for. The expenditure has been still larger this year, owing to the cost of forwarding to India the immigrants who declined to accept bounty.

28. The increased expenditure on education is unhappily more apparent than real. The actual increase was 188*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*, and this was owing to the increased income of the Education Fund in the previous year. The difference between the above sum and the apparent increase (425*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*) is due to payments claimed in 1870 on account of services rendered in 1869.

29. Notwithstanding the increased expenditure the total balances of the various funds in the treasury at the close of 1870 was larger than for many previous years. They amounted in 1870 to 6,619*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*; in 1869 to 5,641*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*; and in 1868 to 4,451*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*

Trade.

30. The value of exports in 1870 was 147,171*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*, of which sum 146,000*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* represents the value of the produce of the Colony. This is an increase of 29,000*l.* (or about 21 per cent.) as compared with 1868, in which year the returns under this head were higher than in any previous year.

31. The following are the respective values of the articles sent to the United Kingdom:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Cassia Fistula	87	0	0
Cacao	2,794	4	8
Ginger	3	16	0
Logwood	227	10	0
Fish Oil	365	0	0
Succades	15	8	4
Molasses	2,780	0	0
Muscovado Sugar	128,788	0	0
Tortoise Shell	135	0	0
Satin Wood	51	0	0
Making a total value of	£135,246	19	0

32. The imports of 1870 were valued at 106,285*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*; those of 1869 at 90,464*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*; of 1868 at 97,845*l.*, showing an increase under this head in 1870 of 15,380*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* as compared with 1869,

and of 8,440*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* as compared with 1868, the latter year having, in the value of imports as well as of exports, surpassed all former years. The imports from Great Britain were valued in 1870 at 40,882*l.* 7*s.*; in 1869 at 35,443*l.* But these figures do not indicate the whole of the British products consumed. For of the 28,633*l.* worth of articles imported in the former year from Barbados, probably at least one-half had been brought thither from the United Kingdom. The balance of trade is, however, against England, inasmuch as the bulk of imported food comes from the United States; and tobacco, which is now consumed at the extraordinary rate of more than 3 lbs. per head of the population, comes chiefly from that country.

33. The number and tonnage of vessels entered at Castries (the only port of entry) during the years 1870 and 1869 was as follows:—

	Vessels.	Of total tons.
In 1870 - - -	197	15,205
„ 1869 - - -	185	14,743

(This, however, is excluding ten arrivals per month of English and French mail steamers.)

The increase in 1870 is due to the same cause adverted to under the head, " Revenue and Expenditure."

Agriculture and Manufacture.

34. The sugar crop of 1870 proved, as anticipated in my last Report, to be the largest ever obtained in the Island. The following Table shows the total produce of sugar estates shipped in the years 1870, 1869, and 1868 respectively, the crop in this latter year having exceeded that of any former year.

	1870.	1869.	1868.
Sugar - {pounds avoirdupois}	12,444,153	10,517,725	11,118,829
Molasses - (gallons)	153,000	205,300	191,400
Rum - („)	2,461	1,840	2,058

35. The decrease in the quantity of molasses is owing to a larger production of rum, which is for the most part consumed in the Island. The excise duty on this spirit amounted to 5,954*l.* in 1870; to 5,390*l.* in 1869; and to 5,680*l.* in 1868.

36. The increased production of sugar is owing rather to extended area of cultivation than to improvement of culture.

37. That less energy is shown in the latter respect is probably owing in a measure to the extraordinary fertility of the soil, which not uncommonly produces a crop from the same cane plants for twenty years in succession; whereas in most other countries the fields require to be planted every two or three years.

38. It is this fertility which has enabled planters with very limited capital to earn many of them competence, and some more than competence, on estates so small and so difficult of access that their being carried on at all without ruin is a marvel to strangers. The failures that have taken place here have been almost exclusively the result

of absenteeism—a luxury that a small estate can seldom support. But being better known abroad than the successes of others, they have cast upon the Island an undeserved discredit that has checked the employment of English capital. This evil has, however, not been entirely without compensation. The estates have now all passed into the hands of resident proprietors, whose personal supervision is felt each year more and more, and who are gradually acquiring a capital, promising even better results in the future.

39. The system of agriculture, as in most of the West India Islands, is somewhat rude. But signs at efforts to improve it are not altogether wanting. In 1869 only 264 tons of guano were imported; in 1870, 650 tons; and I may also mention that in the latter year a steam irrigating machine was seen in the Island for the first time. It was imported by an enterprising resident proprietor for use in the plain of Vieux Fort. The rainfall is there below the average, owing probably to the attraction of the clouds by the mountains of other districts, and is moreover said to be decreasing through the cutting down of forests on the neighbouring hills.

40. The returns of mileage under cultivation are not trustworthy. The magistrates, who make them, are compelled to be content for the most part with estimates from mere inspection; and such are apt to be wide of the mark. They are undoubtedly so in the present instance. The creation of the new office of Colonial Surveyor and Engineer may enable us in future years to obtain a nearer approximation to accuracy.

41. From these returns it would appear that in 1870 the number of acres in sugar-canes was little over 5,000, a considerable decrease by comparison with former years. But the general, and I am convinced, correct opinion of planters is to the effect that cane cultivation, instead of being contracted, has been year by year extended, and now covers a greater area than at any former time. Virgin soil is being broken for it in all directions; and while no estates have latterly been abandoned, some have been reclaimed, and others, which a few years ago grew little else but weeds and trees, are now yielding abundant crops. One proprietor has almost entirely, by extended cultivation, increased this year to 700 hogsheads the crop of estates which only three or four years ago yielded an average of only 250 hogsheads, and many others have made similar progress, though not in the same proportion.

42. But apart from these facts, another consideration shows that the estimate of 5,000 acres is within the mark. Duty was paid in 1870 on more than 10,000 hogsheads exported, which, if this estimate were correct, would be two hogsheads to each acre—a yield which, though common enough under a high state of cultivation, is incredible as the average of a whole colony where land is so little tilled as in St. Lucia. On this account the real number of acres in canes is probably nearer 7,000 than 5,000.

43. Besides extension of cultivation I am able to record a progress in manufacture which makes further improvement probable, and will certainly render it more easy. Steam power is gradually superseding all others for grinding purposes. Fourteen steam-mills were imported in 1870, of which seven replaced others that had been

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moved by wind, water, or cattle, and seven were destined for newly-opened estates.

44. I regret, however, that I cannot record any improvement in the quality of produce, which the limited supply of labour would alone render of more importance than increase of quantity. But there is another circumstance which may soon make a necessity what is now merely desirable—I mean the reduction of the sugar duties in England.

45. It is possible that the increased production stimulated by that measure will be only in proportion to the increased demand created by lower prices. If, however, it should prove otherwise, as indeed is the generally-received opinion among merchants, and there should be in consequence a general fall in prices, the chief sufferers would be the producers of inferior sugar, such as is almost exclusively exported from this Colony. For their margin of profit being smaller, they could less afford to lose any portion of it.

46. Fears on this head were becoming general among the planters last year, but have for the time subsided, in consequence of a rise in the market; and the indications of movement which they prompted have for the most part disappeared.

47. High prices have, however, almost invariably followed great European wars: and there may be at present another exceptional cause for them. Though high as regards the profit to the producer, they are yet by the reduction of the duty low to the consumer. Increased demand has probably been the immediate result of this cheapness, while the effects of the new stimulus to production have not yet had time to show themselves fully. If therefore the above fears had any ground at all, there appears no sufficient reason to justify their removal.

48. But whether the profits of agriculture and, as a consequence, the prosperity of the Colony are in danger or not, there can be no doubt that improvement in the quality of produce is of the first importance; and the only question to be solved is as to the means of improvement best suited to the circumstances of the Colony.

49. The estates here are for the most part too small to support singly expensive works, such as produce the crystallized sugar of Demerara; and on this account the co-operative system which has achieved extraordinary results in the neighbouring colony of Martinique, would appear to offer by far the best prospect of success.

50. That system, having as yet been introduced into no English West India Colony, is probably little known in England, and therefore a short description of it, as compared with that which is supplanted, may not be out of place.

51. Its chief distinctive feature is the entire separation of agriculture from manufacture. Though co-operation has proved useful for the introduction of the system, and has tended greatly to enhance its profits, it is not essential to it.

52. Before this innovation every sugar planter in the West Indies was also a manufacturer. He not only grew canes, but ground them and turned their juice into sugar.

53. Such a system cannot be otherwise than a wasteful one. If every farmer was also a miller and a baker, it may, I presume, be

taken as certain that wheat would be less abundant and bread worse and dearer, while the profits of production would be less. And yet the West India planter has combined occupations even more incongruous, as being singly more difficult. For the ordinary anxieties attending cultivation and manufacture are, in his case, complicated by peculiar difficulties connected with labour and climate; and, apart from these, even the "common process" of sugar-making involves no easy task. Though there have been other minor causes, no other than this undue complication of characters need be sought to account for general backwardness of agriculture and inferiority of produce.

54. It is true that great success has occasionally been achieved under this system, but must be taken to be in spite of it. Great losses can be directly traced to it; and the experience of Martinique goes to show how much greater profits might have been without it. Moreover, on large estates, as those of Demerara, the required division of labour does, in fact, partially take place. Though the supreme control of cultivation and manufacture is centered in a single person, the magnitude of operations admits of the exclusive superintendence of each by a responsible subordinate.

55. Under the Martinique system, however, the division of labour is complete. The planter is merely a planter, and sugar-making an entirely separate occupation. A central "Usine" manufactures the canes of a number of neighbouring estates, and pays for them by weight, irrespective of the quantity of sugar produced. So that the planter after delivering the raw produce has no further concern with it, and he is enabled to devote his capital and energy exclusively to the improvement of his cultivation.

56. The first factories were established under agreement as to full supplies of material with the neighbouring planters, who also furnished a considerable portion of the capital. But now others are in operation, which have dispensed with a part of this security, and which partially depend for supplies on the growers' self-interest. It was in fact taken for granted by their projectors that the planters would sell their canes rather than make sugar themselves. This calculation was more than justified by the event. Canes are, I am informed, now coming to these factories from most unexpected sources, and from distances of eight and ten miles.

57. Further proof than the above is scarcely needed to show that the planters are deriving benefit from the new system. Though the extent of that benefit cannot of course be known, a notion of it can be formed from the price given for the canes. I am informed that the lowest price offered by the usines is the market value of 5 lbs. of the best common-process sugar for every 100 lbs. of canes; and this is only 1 per cent. less on the average than is obtained by those planters who incur the risk, anxiety, and expense of manufacture.

58. There is, however, more definite knowledge as to the profits of the manufacturer, who so far deserves them in that he produces the best sugar yet exported from the West Indies. "The Usine de Francois," established in 1866, has in the last four years declared dividends as follows:—In 1867, 19 per cent.; in 1868, 37 per cent.; in 1869, 48 per cent.; and in 1870, 36 per cent.; the decrease in

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the latter year being merely the result of the disasters in France, which receives the bulk of the Martinique sugars.

59. The new system, besides its intrinsic merits, has in operation developed a collateral advantage of no small importance. It has proved a powerful promoter of social order The capital required for the factories being too large to be commonly furnished by individual capitalists, or even exclusively by the "monied classes," has in some cases been divided into small shares, which are largely held by negro labourers and peasant proprietors. Moreover, the factories themselves as supplying regular work at good wages, are held in considerable regard by the people. Consequently, in the disturbances which occurred last year on the news of the disasters in France, when property was being destroyed in all directions in the south-western part of the Island, where alone there are no usines, there was but little disturbance in the other quarters, and the usines and their contributory estates were entirely exempt from injury. This fact suggests a question worthy of the consideration of proprietors in other Colonies, where labour is insufficient and where the malignity of individual labourers is apt to indulge in incendiarism, viz.—whether the admission of the labourers to a certain share of profits (on a system similar to that in operation in some of the English iron foundries) would not save expense both in superintendence and insurance, and thus conduce to the benefit of both employers and employed.

60. But apart from its incidental advantages, there can be little doubt that the Martinique system might be profitably adopted in St. Lucia. There are several localities where the cane cultivation is already sufficient to support an usine, and if, as Martinique experience indicates, a coast carriage of eight to ten miles does not prevent profit both to grower and manufacturer, there is no quarter of the Island where one might not be established with advantage.

61. Besides the regular sugar estates, there is, owing to the cheapness of land, a large number of small plots in the occupation of negro peasant-proprietors, who show their preference for cane cultivation when there is the slightest opportunity for indulging it. When sufficiently near to an estate, they deliver their canes to the proprietor, consenting in consideration of their manufacture to surrender half the sugar produced and all the molasses—an arrangement which gives rise, as may be supposed, to continual misunderstandings. Many others are content with their own manufacture carried on with wooden hand-mills (more rarely cattle-mills), movable boiling kettles, and other rude contrivances. All these would inevitably seize the opportunity which would be offered by an usine of selling their canes by weight; and many others, whose poverty now precludes them from cane-growing, would probably abandon for it the raising of provisions.

62. Moreover, the requisite capital could undoubtedly be obtained by co-operation. But here is the chief difficulty. Whenever the question has been hitherto mooted, there has been disclosed on the part of some whose assistance was necessary, not only an extreme reluctance to abandon long-established habits, but a notion that the new system would involve a certain loss of their independence and

position. Uniting at present the functions of planter and manufacturer, and to a certain extent those of merchant also, they are unwilling to adopt an innovation which involves their necessary confinement to one character. If, however, a single instance of the success of the new system could be brought immediately under their eyes, it is probable that this reluctance would be overcome. There is, I am glad to say, reason to hope that such an instance will not be long forthcoming.

63. But failing changes involving outlay of capital, there is an inexpensive improvement capable of general adoption which would render even the poorest planter comparatively secure.

64. At present the sugar of this Colony, to the amount of over 100,000 cwt. of the 114,000 exported, is unfit for immediate consumption, and is of that quality that necessitates the occupation of the refiner. Some soils will always probably produce a better sugar than others. But it is yet a fact, not merely theoretical, but being continually demonstrated elsewhere in practice, that an edible sugar can be produced from any land where canes grow readily by the same process now used for the inferior quality, and with no more labour or expense. As the one commodity is worth less than the other by 4*s.* per cent. on the average, there is thus an unnecessary loss to the planters of this small Colony of 20,000*l.* per annum, or no inconsiderable proportion of the whole profit realized in sugar cultivation.

65. All that is required to produce the higher quality is the acquisition and application of modern knowledge as to the ingredients to be used in clarifying, which require not only to be measured with exactness, instead of by guess-work, but to be varied according to differences of soil.

66. As the above facts are, I am glad to say, becoming recognized by some, this change will, no doubt, in course of time be adopted by all. But such is the apathy and indifference with regard to improvement, that I fear nothing but a serious fall in prices would secure quickly a consummation so desirable.

67. The sugar crop of the present year, in spite of an unfavourable season, will probably fall little short of that of last year, and is likely again to exceed 10,000 hogsheads. And if the present condition of the market continues until the bulk of the produce reaches home, any slight deficit in quantity will be more than compensated by increased prices.

Immigration.

68. Of the 1,500 Indian immigrants imported into this Island in the years between 1859 and 1862, only about 300 remain, and but for the Ordinance lately passed and mentioned under a former head of this Report, these would probably have gone also to seek a larger society of their countrymen in neighbouring colonies. All those remaining at the end of last year, who preferred a free return passage to bounty, sailed for Calcutta in January last, to the number of 162, and we have just received the news that the voyage was a healthy and successful one. The place of the departed labourers has been to a partial extent taken by Barbadians, who immigrated here during 1870, to the number of perhaps 400. A few have come at their

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own expense, but the majority were imported by individual planters. The Government was urged to encourage and conduct this immigration, and to pay a certain portion of the expenses. The object in view was a reasonable and desirable one, but it was considered necessary to defer consideration of the question until provision should be made for a staff of medical officers sufficient to attend on the immigrants in the country districts.

69. Notwithstanding the proximity of the two islands to one another, and that their latitude is almost the same, the climate of Barbados differs greatly from that of St. Lucia. In the former the land is comparatively flat and denuded of foliage, and a thin light soil barely conceals the porous coral. St. Lucia, on the other hand, is mountainous, with the exception of a small portion of its south-eastern quarter, and the forest remains on probably nine-tenths of its surface. The soil is also for the most part either loam or clay, and, even where different, covers impermeable rock. Hence in Barbados the rainfall is less, its effects are less permanent, and the climate is far dryer. Probably for this reason the Barbadian on arrival here requires acclimatization almost as much as the Indian Coolie, and is commonly sickly during his first two years' residence.

70. The new Medical Ordinance requires returns from estates of all persons resident upon them who have been less than two years in the Island, and compels the provision for them of medical attendance. As soon as the medical staff, to be appointed under the same Ordnance, is complete, I am of opinion that this immigration should be encouraged and assisted, if the planters still desire it.

71. They have, however, not so far been generally satisfied with this class of immigrants. The Barbadian bears somewhat the same relation to the negro of other West Indian Colonies as the workman of large towns to the agricultural labourer. The struggle for livelihood in a dense population has sharpened his wits and given an edge to his tongue. He has a fuller knowledge of his rights, and is not only not slow and sometimes inconsiderate in asserting them, but is apt to return with interest any real or fancied attempt to encroach upon them. It is therefore not surprising that he should prove a disagreeable substitute for the submissive and docile Coolie.

72. There are instances, however, where gangs of Barbadians have, under judicious management, proved valuable plantation labourers; and I am inclined to think that they would become so generally as they became better understood, and when they themselves were more used to the country. Against this they are at first strongly prejudiced, inasmuch as everything, including the language, is unfamiliar to them. But as the strangeness wears off, the certainty of work and the facility of obtaining plots of garden ground overcome their objections and render them unwilling to return home. As their sickness has also assisted to their discouragement, gratuitous medical relief is likely to prove a further inducement to them to remain.

73. If, however, Barbadian immigration, as some fear, should prove a failure, there appears no reason why this Island should be less favoured than its neighbours, in respect of the permission to import Coolies. Such an undertaking, however, should, I think, be only as a last resort. Before seeking a labour market on the other side of the

world, it would seem more natural, and it would certainly be far more economical, to avail ourselves of the sources of supply which are near at hand; and this especially where an island under the same Government has a surplus population which it is found yearly more difficult to support.

74. While on this subject I may mention that immigration, while, no doubt, highly desirable, does not appear to have been so absolutely necessary as was at one time supposed. The crop having, as shown above, largely increased, and cultivation having been extended since the time that the greatest number of Coolies was in the Island, and their place having been partially supplied by others, either the Creoles have become more industrious or more of them have been attracted to the estates. From the information which I have been able to gather, I am inclined to think that the latter supposition is the more generally correct. And I think further that much more labour might be obtained of the same kind, if task-work was to a certain extent substituted for the day-work that is now the general rule. Some planters have already tried this change with advantage to themselves, and it is probable that others will soon follow their example; in which case the correctness of the above opinion will be tested. The adoption of task-work exclusively would be hard upon the weakly, and therefore undesirable. But, on the other hand, the strong, who object most to shilling-a-day payment, are also the most apt to seek an independent livelihood in the forest.

75. *Education.*

is nominally controlled by a Board consisting of two committees of equal number, one composed of Roman Catholics, the other of Protestants. But, in fact, the functions of the Board are only exercised to the extent of dividing equally between the two committees the income of the Education Fund.

76. That fund consists of an annual grant of 500*l.* from the general revenue, together with a sum that amounted last year to 606*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*, the proceeds of an export duty upon cocoa and logwood, of certain licences, and of fines and penalties recovered for breaches of the revenue laws.

77. The Protestant committee has invariably granted its share of the fund to the schools named after the Mico Charity, which, in right of providing about two-thirds of the funds for their support, also controls them.

78. The teaching, properly so called, in these schools is purely secular. But in accordance, I believe, with the rules of the charity, the Bible is read daily without note or explanation. To this system the Catholic clergy naturally object, and have in most of the towns and villages established schools of their own, which are supported by the Government funds at the disposal of the Catholic committee.

79. There is not, and never has been, a regular inspection by Government of any of the schools. The funds at its disposal would not admit of the employment of an officer duly qualified for the duty, without a serious reduction in the grants, already barely sufficient for the support of the schools.

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80. As the schools in several neighbouring islands can hardly be so numerous as to more than occupy the time of an active officer, the best and most feasible means of obtaining efficient inspection would, I venture to think, be co-operation between the Colonies, and the appointment of an officer at a salary made up of contributions from each.

81. There being no inspection, we have no means of testing, with certainty, the value of the education imparted, or the relative efficiency of the Mico and Catholic schools. There can, however, be little doubt that the Mico schools, being presided over by trained teachers, afford the better secular education. It is in this belief, at all events, that many parents persist in sending their children to them in spite of clerical opposition. Thus more than six-sevenths of their pupils are Catholics.

82. The number of pupils on the rolls, in 1870, of the ten Mico schools was 1,313, of seven Catholic schools 1,030. The numbers in 1869 were respectively 1,323 and 935; so that there was, in 1870, an increase, both actual and relative, in the number attending the Catholic schools, a fact which would seem to indicate the increasing influence of the Catholic clergy.

83. The attendance in both classes of schools, if their returns are equally correct, would appear to be about the same; the average number of pupils attending daily being in each case five-eighths of the whole number on the rolls.

84. The want of Government inspection is, in the case of the Mico schools, to a great extent, compensated by the regular inspection of an officer employed by the trustees of the charity, who, as far as I am able to judge, is not only fully capable of the work required of him, but is active and energetic in its performance. From returns supplied by him, which may be depended upon as accurate, it appears that of the 1,313 pupils on the rolls, 290 were able to read English with ease, and 468 to write it from dictation. With regard to the subjects English grammar and geography, as the returns give only the numbers of pupils under instruction in them, no idea can be formed of their proficiency. But I may mention that in examining one of these schools lately, at Soufrœir, on these subjects, I was surprised at the extent and variety of the knowledge displayed. In arithmetic, of the 751 pupils who have commenced the subject, 164 are learning compound rules, and 61 have advanced to and beyond "Proportion."

85. Considering that all these subjects are taught exclusively in English, and that the vernacular language is a patois of French, containing but very few English words, the above results may, I think, be looked upon as so far satisfactory. Judging from these and from the few opportunities which I have had of examination and observation, I am inclined to think that the teaching in these schools is of a considerably higher character than that of the Ward schools in Trinidad, as disclosed by Mr. Keenan's valuable report. But at the same time many of the defects of system observed by him exist here also, though some in a less degree.

86. The salary of teachers in no degree depends on efficiency of teaching. Payment partially in proportion to results would be far

preferable. But the change could not be carried into effect without regular and uniform inspection. The difficulty with regard to this I have mentioned above.

87. The exclusive use in the schools of the English language is clearly a mistake. Much labour must be wasted both on the part of master and pupil by the system of teaching in a language which the pupils understand but imperfectly, and of which they are at first totally ignorant; and I cordially agree with Mr. Keenan, that reading should be first taught in the language of the country, and English acquired through it. In such case, not only would the education in every subject be better than it is but the chief object of the present system, viz. a knowledge of English, would in the end be more perfectly attained.

88. The reading-books in use are, as in Trinidad, unsuited to the country. Many of their illustrations and allusions refer to objects with which, as being common in England, familiarity is taken for granted, but which neither pupils nor teachers have ever seen, and most of them are never likely to see; while, on the other hand, no instruction is conveyed nor interest excited with reference to the phenomena around them. The expense of preparing a set of more suitable books would, I imagine, be beyond the means of this and others of the smaller colonies. But as there are a large number of familiar objects common to the whole West Indies, this object also appears to be one in which co-operation might be evoked with advantage. Even the French translations would be useful in several colonies besides this.

89. Another radical fault in the educational system is quite as apparent here as in Trinidad. A number of youths leave the schools, who, because they can read and write fairly and have some knowledge of arithmetic, look upon themselves as above any other manual labour than that of clerkship. But the field for the employment of clerks being very small, many never attain to that position, and too often become not only useless but positively harmful to society. It is this class which furnishes the village lawyers and petition writers, who gain a precarious livelihood by playing upon the credulity of the more ignorant. Disappointed in life, they avenge themselves on society by fomenting dissatisfaction, provoking useless litigation, and inventing frauds. While others do nothing whatever, and live upon the earnings of their wives and mistresses.

90. The best remedy for this evil would be the introduction of an industrial element into school teaching. By familiarizing children from their earliest years with the tools of the labourer and the artisan, not only would their use in manhood be rendered more easy, but these false notions of dignity would probably be overcome by degrees, and eventually precluded altogether.

91. The Catholic schools, which obtain by far the larger proportion of girls, have to a certain extent met the above want, by teaching sewing and other plain needlework. But as the number of seamstresses is larger than is required, it would be well if there were also included among the subjects of instruction a knowledge of cooking, washing, and other work, suited to the sex. These pursuits, owing to those engaged in them being comparatively few and inexpert, presen

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a better chance of affording a livelihood in themselves, and therefore decreased temptation to obtain one by less reputable means.

92. In order to effect a really useful reform in this and other respects, we must have at command teachers specially trained for the purpose. But the establishment of a proper Normal School would be beyond our present unaided means; and here again the best hope of obtaining the desired result would be in the co-operation of other colonies similarly circumstanced.

93. In the absence of such co-operation, either there must be a considerable increase of taxation or the present unsatisfactory state of things must indefinitely continue.

94. Having pointed out what appear to me as defects in the system of teaching, I feel especially bound to acknowledge, emphatically, the great benefits which have been conferred upon this Island by the charity which controls the Mico Schools—an institution which made the first efforts to dispel the dark ignorance engendered of slavery, and has during 33 years spent a larger sum on the education of the people than has been furnished from their own taxation.

95. In 1870 a Grammar School for boys was established for the first time in the Island. There are now 29 pupils, under the tuition of the Rev. P. Mondens, a clergyman of the Roman Catholic Church. A school of "secondary" education for girls has existed for some years. It is, as far as I am able to judge, admirably conducted by the ladies of the convent of St. Joseph, and has a high repute among the upper classes of the community. It is open to Catholics and Protestants alike. The number of pupils is at present 58.

Population.

96. The returns of the census taken this year are not yet complete. But the general result shows that the Registrar-General's estimate of the population, as given last year, was very nearly correct. The total number is rather over 31,000. Detailed information on this subject belongs more properly to the next Annual Report.

Public Health.

97. The health of the people during 1870 was good. There was an entire absence, as there has been, happily, for many years, of yellow fever, cholera, and small-pox, and the only malady which occurred in an epidemic form was "whooping cough." This, however, has for some time disappeared.

98. Exclusive of still-births, the death rate was 23·1 per thousand of the population, the birth rate 42·5 per thousand; so that there was a natural increase of population at the rate of 19·4 per thousand, an increase that indicates a climate and circumstances comparing favourably with those of any of the neighbouring colonies.

General Remarks.

99. Public order was maintained throughout the year. There was, indeed, some excitement during the disturbances in Martinique, such as would naturally result from the close connection existing between the people of the two islands. But no outbreak occurred, and tran-

quillity was quickly restored. There is a certain ill-feeling between class and class, caused perhaps by undue exclusiveness on the one side and over sensitiveness on the other; but, happily, no general disaffection against the Government. Food and other necessaries are cheap. Work at fair wages is easily obtainable. Taxation is very light, being on the average less than 13*s.* 6*d.* per head per annum (inclusive of municipal taxes and special taxes for immigration and education), or little more than half of the average taxation of the West India Colonies. Justice in respect of ordinary grievances at least, may be obtained at trifling cost. The public health is good, and has been so for many years. So that all things considered, the people have probably as much cause for contentment as any in the world.

100. I am, however, of opinion that the general welfare might be materially improved by very simple means, viz. an increase of taxation on certain articles of import. I do not refer mainly to the good which might be achieved by increased revenue in a country which requires so much expenditure to be brought up to the level of modern civilization. Nor do I mean a taxation intended to check a pernicious consumption. I mean, paradox as it may appear to English economists, that the taxation would be good without reference to either of these objects. The general rule that taxation is merely a necessary evil, applies justly, no doubt, to those countries where the bulk of the population labour, and earn to the full extent of their power. In their case, of course, increased taxation on any article of common use is at once followed by decreased consumption; and indeed this decrease is a test of the amount of privation suffered by consumers. But in St. Lucia as in other West India Colonies, the labourers, who form the great majority of consumers, though they can earn wages every day, only choose to earn them on three or four days in each week. The intervals of idleness do them the more harm, physically and morally, in that they have but limited means and capacity of healthy enjoyment. Anything therefore not itself pernicious, which tended to lead them to more regular habits of industry, would do them an incalculable benefit, would promote their health and happiness, and prolong their lives. And such would, I conclude, be the result of increased taxation of the kind referred to.

101. There are many articles of considerable cost, such as tobacco, fine clothes, condiments of various kinds, &c., which though not necessary for the support of life or even for the preservation of health, are yet largely used by the labourers. It is clear that their desire for these commodities is even stronger than their natural inclination to idleness, or they would labour merely to supply themselves with necessaries. And it therefore becomes probable, that if the value of these articles were enhanced by an increase, within reasonable limits, of the duty levied upon them, the labourers instead of using them less would merely draw upon their fund of idleness to pay the additional price; or, in other words, exert themselves more to obtain them. The taxation would thus, instead of an evil, be a benefit to them.

102. I am aware that a similar argument applies with even greater force to necessaries; and indeed I am inclined to think that the

ST. LUCIA.

high duties levied even on these in some of the other West India Colonies, have contributed somewhat to their prosperity. It is, however, a question whether the general welfare is not in this case purchased at too great expense to that by no means insignificant number of persons whose earnings cannot necessarily be augmented by increased exertion. These are the persons who suffer most on any increase of taxation. Bnt a measure which merely deprives them of some of the amenities of life is justified by a much lower degree of expediency than one which renders life itself less secure. As the duties now levied on some necessaries might be doubled, and others more than doubled, and yet be lower than in other West India Colonies, I am by no means prepared to say that they are up to that limit, to pass which would be unjustifiable. But as this limit has certainly not been reached in the case of what may be called luxuries, it may perhaps be possible to obtain the effect desired by dealing with them alone.

103. Hitherto the chief opposition to any increase of taxation has been on the part of the merchants. They have feared that trade would suffer, and their immediate outlay would at first be larger. But if the increase was within moderate limits, I venture to think that trade would benefit rather than suffer. There might indeed be a temporary depression at first, but more labour would produce more wealth, and whilst the consumption of the taxed articles would soon recover its level, the purchase of others would be extended.

104. As stated in my Report of last year, a reward was offered for the first time in 1870 for the destruction of poisonous snakes. After the vote of 300*l.* had been exhausted by the payment for 12,000 heads, the Legislature during my absence, refused to renew it. On reconsideration, however, a somewhat diminished vote was passed in February this year, so that this interesting experiment will continue. The opposition to the vote was caused by an opinion that all snakes which are seen are killed without any reward. But the large decrease in the number of heads brought in this year since the diminution of the reward seems to refute this opinion completely. Either the larger reward was a greater inducement to kill, or the number of snakes killed last year has caused greater difficulty in finding them now.

105. Further, the number of deaths by snake-poison was in 1869, before the offer of reward, 22; in 1870, only 16. This may have been an accidental fluctuation, but the supposition is rendered less likely by a still further diminished death rate in the first half of this year. During the latter period there were six deaths from this cause. In the same period of 1870, the number was 10; and in 1869, 11. There is therefore some reason to believe that the 400*l.* or thereabouts, which the measure has hitherto cost, has been well expended.

G. W. DES VŒUX,
Administrator of the Government.

No. 12. No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor MUNDY to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 101.)

MY LORD, Leeward Islands, Antigua, May 11, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1870, together with a Report thereon from Mr. Baynes, the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) ROBT. M. MUNDY, Administrator of the Government, Leeward Islands.

Enclosure in No. 12. Enclosure in No. 12.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Antigua, May 6, 1871.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit to your Excellency some remarks on the Statistical Tables composing the Blue Book of Antigua for the year 1870.

Taxes, &c.

The only changes effected in 1870 under this head were the mposition of a stamp duty, and the discontinuance of the trade tax.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The finances of the Colony are now in a satisfactory condition.

The ordinary revenue was 41,136*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*, and the ordinary expenditure 31,315*l.* 1*s.*, showing that the ordinary revenue was in excess of the ordinary expenditure by 9,821*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* After the payment of a sum of 5,436*l.* 19*s.* for interest, and in payment of public debt, the balance was reduced to 4,384*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* This balance is composed of the following items:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
General Revenue - -	3,303	7	10
Clergy Fund - - - -	146	6	2
Immigration Fund - -	599	10	7
Barbuda Fund - - -	334	18	1

The revenue was in excess of that of 1869 by 1,326*l.* 3*s.* 11½*d.* The expenditure was 2,500*l.* below that of the previous year, the principal decrease being as follows:—

	1869.			1870.			Decrease.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Interest - - - -	3,004	11	8	2,211	11	9	792	19	11
Sinking Funds - - -	4,437	0	0	3,225	7	3	1,211	12	9
Military Expenditure - -	1,953	15	11	966	19	1	986	16	10

ANTIGUA.

The principal source of revenue is the import duty. This yielded 20,436*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* Articles of food contributed 9,303*l.* 15*s.* 11¾*d.*, or nearly 50 per cent. of the entire amount; tobacco and snuff, 1,224*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*; pitch pine, shingles, and other woods, 2,019*l.* 11*s.* 1¾*d.*; wines, spirits, ale, &c., 2,009*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*

An excise duty of 2*s.* 6*d.* per gallon is levied on rum consumed in the Island, and a licence is required for the sale by retail of wines, spirits, or malt. The excise duty in 1870 was £3,733 10 7

Liquor licences - - - 954 19 0

£4,688 9 7

Public Debt.

The public debt at the close of the year was: —

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Water-works Loan - -	30,000	0	0
Local Loan - - - -	6,113	13	10
Savings Bank Loan - -	9,006	8	10
Immigration Fund - -	6,301	6	5
Treasury Notes - -	774	0	0
	£52,195	9	1

5,988*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* has been invested in the water-works sinking fund, and 380*l.* in the savings bank sinking fund, thus reducing the net public debt to 45,826*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*

Public Works.

No new works undertaken.

Legislation.

The chief enactments in 1870 were: —

The Act to provide for the further reduction of the expenses of certain departments of the public service. Under the provisions of this Act the offices of Registrar and Provost Marshal have been combined, with a saving to the Colony of 200*l.* per annum. This Act provides for further reductions in the establishment of the Colony as vacancies occur in certain public offices.

The Telegraph Act grants a subsidy of 800*l.* per annum for ten years to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, on condition that the company shall, within one year of the coming into operation of the Act, place this Island in telegraphic communication with the other West India Islands, and with the continents of Europe and America.

The Census Act.

The Act for the better management of the Holberton hospital, poor-house, and lunatic asylum, and to provide medical attendance for the labouring population.

Under this head may be included the resolutions passed on the 8th July by an unanimous vote of the Legislative Council for the Federation of the Leeward Islands. These resolutions have since been adopted by the other colonies in this Government.

Population.

The returns under this head show that a marked improvement has within the last two or three years taken place in the state of the public health.

In 1870 the births exceeded the deaths by 336. The number of births registered was 1,598; of deaths, 1,262.

The birth rate was 4·3 per cent., or 43 to every 1,000 of the population. The death rate was 3·4 per cent., or 34 to every 1,000 of the population.

The birth rate for 1869 was 4·04. The death rate was 4·02.

These figures present a pleasant contrast to the heavy rate registered in the years 1862, 1863, and 1864, the average death rate for each of these years being 4·68 per cent., or 46·8 to every 1,000 of the population.

Of the births registered in 1870, 841 were of boys, and 757 of girls, showing an excess of 84 of boys, the proportion being about 111 boys to every 100 girls.

The total number of illegitimate children was 1,017, or 63·6 per cent. of the whole number born.

There were 207 marriages in the year, of which 101 were solemnized by the Anglican Church, 3 by the Roman Catholic Church, 68 by the Moravian Church, and 35 by the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

The marriage rate for the year was ·55 per cent., or 5·5 to every 1,000 of the population.

The number of births, deaths, and marriages registered during the last ten years is as follows:—

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
1861	1,326	1,403	183
1862	1,072	1,738	150
1863	1,407	1,734	162
1864	1,407	1,750	166
1865	1,581	1,534	165
1866	1,353	1,310	183
1867	1,531	1,403	172
1868	1,375	1,517	
1869	1,508	1,493	192
1870	1,598	1,262	207
	14,158	15,144	

It would thus appear that the native population has decreased by 986 in the last ten years, or at the rate of ·265 per cent. per annum.

The heavy death rate for the years 1862, 1863, and 1864, may to some extent be attributed to the effects of small-pox, which disease broke out in this Colony in 1862, and continued in an epidemic form until the commencement of 1864. Though the mortality from the disease was not great in proportion to the number attacked, yet there is reason to believe that the constitution of the sufferers was impaired, and rendered them an easy prey to diseases of subsequent occurrence.

The severe drought to which the Colony was subjected in 1863 and 1864, together with the unwholesome condition of the numerous negro villages, also had a prejudicial effect on the public health.

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Education.

The Commissioners of Education report that the attendance at schools has been greater than at any time during the last four years, but that it is fluctuating and irregular, and that "it must be so, so "long as comparative poverty urges the parent to seek employment "for the child either at home or abroad; so long as teachers are "obliged to exact school-pence from children, whose attendance they "are powerless to compel; so long, in fact, as education be not "rendered, at least to the extent of half a day, compulsory."

The Commissioners also report, that "at the close of 1869 "there were on the books 3,548 names, and in average attendance "2,096 children; the average numbers for the whole year being "3,609 and 2,258 respectively. On this the year 1870 shows an "increase of 185 on the numbers on the books, and 96 in average "attendance; and an increase for the whole year of 167 in the one "case, and 139 in the other. And both years, in some measure, "but especially the year 1870, may be compared favourably with "1868 and 1867, it having exceeded the former year by 295 and "416, and the latter by 515 and 393.

"A like satisfactory comparison may be made between the amounts "received in the amount of school fees for the last two years, and the "sum realized from the same source in 1868 and 1867. In 1869 "there was contributed to the income of the schools in this form "305*l.* 13*s.* 10½*d.*, and in 1870, 332*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, and these together "are in excess of the joint totals of 1868 and 1867 by 48*l.* 10*s.* 11½*d.* "It may be stated here that each child attending school has, on the "average, paid for purposes of education, 1*s.* 9½*d.* in the year 1870.

"The total cost of maintaining the schools for the two years was "3,158*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* Of this, 3,127*l.* 0*s.* 4½*d.* was expended in the "shape of salaries, the balance on books and apparatus. But these "sums are not to be relied upon for statistical purposes, as moneys "are often spent on the schools which do not appear in the returns, "and of which consequently the Commissioners possess no record.

"Towards this expenditure the public grant reached in 1869 "675*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*; in 1870, 693*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*; in all 1,368*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* In "1870 the amount granted towards the education of each child in "attendance at all appears to have been 3*s.* 8*d.*"

Imports and Exports.

A decrease of 10,178*l.* appears in the value of imports as compared with the returns for 1869.

	£
1868	169,900
1869	174,356
1870	164,178

* * * * * * *

The exports show an increase over 1869 of 33,038*l.*

	£
1868	273,706
1869	200,973
1870	234,011

The crop of the Island was an average one, 12,674 hogsheads of sugar having been shipped during the year. The sugar crop of 1868 was 12,682, and that of 1869, 10,370.

A falling off in the cultivation of cotton is shown by the decreasing exportation of that article.

	lbs.
Cotton shipped in 1868 - -	651,000
„ „ 1869 - - -	353,500
„ „ 1870 - -	163,981

Shipping.

There is but little variation in these returns for the last three years.

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
1868 - - -	454	26,784	472	28,829
1869 - - -	471	25,509	472	26,188
1870 - - -	422	25,228	423	24,977

Gaol and Prisoners.

The returns under this head show that there has been a considerable decrease in crime since 1868.

The number of commitments in	1868	was 822
„ „ „	1869	„ 647
„ „ „	1870	„ 541
The recommitments - - -	1868	„ 380
„ - - - -	1869	„ 315
„ - - - -	1870	„ 240

This great diminution may in part be accounted for by the stricter enforcement than heretofore of prison discipline, and by the adoption of shot-drill as a means of penal labour. Owing to the favourable seasons, constant employment can be procured by the labourers; and ground provisions, which form their chief food, are cheap and abundant.

Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, Charitable Institutions, and Medical Relief to the Labouring Population.

Under the provisions of an Act passed in December, 1870, these institutions have for the purpose of management been combined and placed under the responsible control of a Board of paid officials appointed by the Governor.

The new Board was appointed early in the present year, and consists of the Treasurer, the Auditor-General, the Senior Medical Officer, and the Second Medical Officer.

The Act has been found to work well, and to meet the purposes for which it was intended. A report on this subject must necessarily be deferred until the close of the year 1871.

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Conclusion.

A retrospect of the year under review affords ample ground for congratulation in every political relation. The scheme for the Federation of the Leeward Islands into one Colony, under one Governor, received the unanimous approval of the Legislative Council. The favour which this measure has met in the community is evinced by the numerously-signed addresses, commendatory of the scheme, presented to Governor Sir Benjamin Pine on his departure for England on leave of absence.

The finances of the Colony have been placed in a healthy condition. The returns show a surplus revenue of 3,300*l.*, and the Government will ere long be in a position to effect a modification and reduction of taxation, especially as regards the duties levied on articles of food imported into the Colony.

The sugar crop was an average one. The Island was blessed with bountiful seasons; labour was abundant, and food cheap. These material advantages were attended by a decrease in crime, and a marked improvement in the public health, as shown by the returns of the Registrar-General.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) EDWIN D. BAYNES,
Colonial Secretary.

Lieutenant-Governor Mundy,
&c. &c. &c.

MONTSERRAT.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 13.

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from President ODLUM to The OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

(No. 170.)

SIR, Government House, Montserrat, Sept. 15, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency, in duplicate, the Blue Book of this Island for the year 1870, with the Colonial Secretary's report thereon.

I regret the late period at which the Blue Book is forwarded; but the delay was unavoidable in consequence of the ill-health of the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. S. S. ODLUM,
President.

The Officer Administering the Government.

Enclosure in No. 13.

REPORT ON BLUE BOOK OF 1870.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The actual revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1866 - - -	5,133	4,735
1867 - - -	4,071	4,024
1868 - - -	4,953	4,656
1869 - - -	5,433	5,046
1870 - - -	5,126	4,432

The revenue of 1870, as compared with that of the previous year (1869), shows a decrease of 307*l.*, owing to the discontinuance of the specific tax on land as a "poor-rate," the general revenue being sufficient to meet the expense of maintaining the poor, and to the repeal of the customs duties on wheaten flour and cornmeal as articles of food.

The difference of expenditure (614*l.*) between those two years, namely 1869 and 1870, is chiefly attributable to the larger liabilities in 1869 towards liquidating the public debt and the restoration of the public buildings.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

		£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.
1870.	Balance from 1869 available on 1st January, 1870 -	698	15	7¼	1870.	Expenditure of 1870 - -	4,432	10	8½
	Actual receipts of 1870 - -	5,126	7	11	Dec. 31.	Surplus in chest available for 1871 - -	1,392	12	9
		£5,825	3	6¼			£5,825	3	6¼

Public Debt.

	£	s.	d.
To the Imperial Government, on the Earthquake Loan of 1843, payable in three equal annual instalments with Interest at 3¼ per cent. - - - - - - - - - -	1,517	14	0

Public Works.

The erection of a public market at a cost of 147*l.* 1*s.* The establishment of this market has given general satisfaction. It is not only an improvement to the town, but found to be of great convenience. The payment of a very trifling tariff of charge not only meets the salary of the keeper (30*l.* per annum), but yields a surplus more than sufficient to keep the market in repair.

Legislation.

Twelve Ordinances were enacted during the year, the most important of which are:—

No. 1. Establishes a public market.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 6. Abolishes the duty on wheaten flour and corn and other meal as articles of food.

No. 8. Abolishes all export duties.

No. 9. Repeals the tonnage duty on all vessels entering the ports of the Island.

No. 10. Provides for the employment in the public service of a second qualified medical practitioner, and provides medical attendance for the labouring population.

Agriculture.

PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF EXPORT.

Year.	Sugar.	Molasses.	Lime Juice.
	Hhds.	Puns.	Puns.
1866	1,607	393	30*
1867	915	176	81*
1868	1,662	534	398†
1869	1,794	503	445†
1870	1,879	418	85*

* Concentrated. † Raw.

There are but four or five of the sugar estates in the Island that are efficiently worked, and the result of an improved system of cultivation and the use of effective machinery shows itself in the increased crops annually produced. There are several other estates which are but partially cultivated; and others, the buildings and works of which have been allowed to go into ruin; but portions of the lands are cultivated, and the sugar manufactured on neighbouring estates on the share system.

Imports and Exports.

VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1866	18,684	19,898
1867	17,788	13,952
1868	20,099	30,279
1869	25,254	37,228
1870	23,043	29,141

Shipping.

	Entered.		Cleared.	
Year.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1866	159	6,301	143	5,617
1867	159	5,356	145	5,338
1868	150	5,265	138	5,338
1869	146	5,677	138	5,813
1870	133	6,870	130	7,473

Population.

By census of 1861, 7,645 ; excess of registered births over deaths, from 1862 to 1870, inclusive, 1,286 ; making an average annual increase for nine years of $142\frac{8}{9}$, equal to an annual increase on the last census of 1·869 per cent.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

	1869.	1870.
Births - - - - - - - -	356	394
Deaths - - - - - - -	277	183
Excess of births over deaths - -	79	211
Marriages - - - - - - -	68	66

Education.

A grant of 100*l.* from the public funds was made for education in 1870.

Denomination.	Schools.	Scholars on Books.	Average Attendance.
Church of England - -	9	764	393
Roman Catholic - - -	1	77	39
Wesleyan - - - -	5	415	236

Gaols and Prisons.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Commitments in 1870 -	86	33	118

	Once.			Twice.			Three times or more.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Prisoners committed before	5	1	6	4	4	8	7	0	7

Percentage of prisoners committed who could read - - 15·25.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. MEADE,
Colonial Secretary.

The Administrator of the Government.

St. Kitts.

ST. KITTS.

No. 14.

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Officer administering the Government to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 207.)

MY LORD, Leeward Islands, Antigua, Nov. 10, 1871.

No. 115.

I HAVE the honour to enclose a Despatch from Administrator Wigley, forwarding the Report on the Blue Book of St. Kitts for the year 1870.

The Blue Book did not accompany Mr. Wigley's Despatch. I have, however, instructed him to forward it direct to your Lordship.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) EDWIN D. BAYNES, Administrator of the Government, Leeward Islands.

The Earl of Kimberley, &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 14.

Enclosure 1 in No. 14.

(No. 115.)

SIR, St. Christopher, October 16, 1871.

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book for this Colony, with the report thereon by the Secretary to Government.

2. I must apologize for the lateness of its transmission, but the duties of collating and preparing the Census returns have operated against its being furnished at an earlier date.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) F. SPENCER WIGLEY.

The Officer administering the Government, Antigua.

Enclosure 2 in No. 14.

Enclosure 2 in No. 14.

ST. CHRISTOPHER AND ANGUILLA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1870.

The revenue was 31,457*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*, the expenditure 26,721*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, and the balance in hand on the 1st January was 16,354*l.* 1*s.*

The principal source of revenue in St. Christopher is that raised from the import duties, which contributed no less a sum than 13,645*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.* for the purposes of general revenue, with the addition of 2,258*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* raised under a temporary Act for the improvement of the town of Basseterre, after the fire in 1867; making a total of 15,903*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, or 50·88 of the entire revenue.

Upon the articles imported under the rates specified in the tariff, the following duties were received:—

Breadstuffs.	£	*s.*	*d.*
Flour, at 4*s.* 2*d.* per barrel	2,565	16	8
Meal, at 2*s.* 1*d.* „	108	4	7
Bread, at 16*s.* per 180 lbs.	53	11	10
Rice, at 13*s.* per 100 lbs.	188	9	1
	£2,916	2	2

Spirits, Malt, &c.	£	*s.*	*d.*
Brandy, at 1*s.* 6*d.* per gallon	313	2	6
Gin, at „ „	287	2	0
Rum, at „ „	2	0	6
Cordials, at 3*s.* „	29	11	0
Malt, at 8*s.* 4*d.* per hogshead, 6*d.* per gallon	123	9	8
Wine, at 15 per cent., ad valorem	283	3	1
	£1,038	8	9

Grain.	£	*s.*	*d.*
Peas and beans, at 6*d.* per bushel	42	19	6
Oats, at 3*d.* „	196	15	0
Corn, at 3*d.* „	29	14	0
	£269	8	6

Timber, &c.	£	*s.*	*d.*
Cedar, &c., at 12*s.* 6*d.* per m.	1	3	7
Hardwood, at 33*s.* 4*d.* „	2	0	5
Pitch pine, at 12*s.* 6*d.* „	249	14	5
White pine, at 8*s.* 4*d.* „	545	18	0
Cedar shingles, at 2*s.* 1*d.* per m.	47	1	2
Cypress shingles, &c., at 4*s.* 2*d.* per m.	372	12	0
Shooks, at 4*d.* per bundle	226	5	4
Staves, at 8*s.* 4*d.* per m.	4	2	5
Wood hoops, at 8*s.* 4*d.* per 1,200	120	1	3
	£1,568	18	7

Provisions and Groceries.	£	*s.*	*d.*
Coffee, at 5*s.* per 100 lbs.	78	0	9
Cocoa, at 5*s.* „ „	38	15	1
Cheese, at 8*s.* 4*d.* „	96	12	3
Fish (dried or pickled), at 1*s.* 0½*d.* per 100 lbs.	704	3	6
Salted meat, at 4*s.* 2*d.* per 100 lbs.	449	15	3
Butter, at 8*s.* 4*d.* „ „	287	11	7
Lard, at 4*s.* 2*d.* „ „	53	10	8
Refined sugar, at 8*s.* 4*d.* „	127	9	0
Muscovado sugar, at 5*s.* „	5	10	3
Vinegar, at 2*d.* per gallon	5	9	4
	£1,846	17	8

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Stock.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Horses, at 20*s.* 10*d.* each - - - -	117	14	2
Mules, at 10*s.* 5*d.* „ - - - - -	46	7	1
Asses, at 4*s.* 2*d.* „ - - - - -	3	2	6
Cattle, at 4*s.* 2*d.* „ - - - - -	88	2	6
	£255	6	3

Miscellaneous.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Soap, at 2*s.* 1*d.* per 100 lbs. - - - -	135	15	7
Snuff, at 20*s.* „ „ - - - -	3	15	2
Tobacco, at 10*s.* „ „ - - - -	348	3	6
Ditto, manufactured, at 20*s.* per 100 lbs. - -	4	6	0
Cigars, 10 per cent. ad valorem - - -	27	18	5
Candles (sperm), at 12*s.* 6*d.* per 100 lbs. - -	30	10	7
Ditto (tallow), at 6*s.* 3*d.* „ „ - -	258	2	6
Dried fruit, at 1*s.* 0½*d.* per 100 lbs. - - -	22	9	7
	£831	1	4

The other articles of imports, save such as are mentioned in the table of exemptions, are subjected to an ad-valorem duty of eight per centum, giving a revenue of 4,918*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*

The value of imports under the Table of exemptions was 23,468*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*

The export tax or duty ranks next in importance as to its monetary value, and the following Table sets forth the amount levied, together with the object for which it is so levied:—

By whom paid.	For what Purpose.	Rate of Export Tax or Duty.												Total Amount collected.		
		Hhd. of Sugar and other Package in like proportion.		Pun. Molasses and other Package in like proportion.		Pun. of Rum and other Package in like proportion.		Barrel of Salt.		100 lbs. of Arrowroot, or Tous-les-mois.		100 lbs. of Cotton.		Barrel of Potatoes.				
		s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Exporter	Stipends of Clergy, &c.	4	2	1	0½	2	1	0	1	0	6	0	1	0	3	3,116	5	7
Do. -	Immigration Fund -	2	1	0	6¼	1	0½	0	0½	—		—		—		381	8	6
Ship -	General Revenue -	2	0	1	6	1	6	—		—		—		—		1,679	0	11
Exporter	Up-keep of Cavalry -	4	2	—		—		—		—		—		—		2,700	5	6
																£7,877	0	6
	Improvement of Town of Basseterre -	An addition of 25 per cent. on the amount collected for Stipends of Clergy - -														647	12	10
																£8,524	13	4

Licences form the next important item of revenue. The liquor licences produced 2,343*l.* 15*s.*; game licences, 3*l.*; boatmen, porter's, and butcher's licences, 51*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; and dog licences, 42*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*; these sources, with the additional 25 per cent. on liquor licences, produced 2,783*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

The tonnage dues realized the sum of 1,678*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*, while miscellaneous sources, comprising fines and forfeitures, Post Office, Grammar School, &c., realized 2,552*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*

The ordinary revenue may be estimated at 27,167*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*, the contribution of 2,644*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* under the Act imposing an additional 25 per cent. for the improvement of the town of Basseterre being exceptional, the Act having been passed for a limited period.

The ordinary expenditure of the Colony for the year was about 23,220*l.*; the grants to St. George's Church and to the Wesleyan Mission, together with some 1,500*l.* for the improvement of the town of Basseterre and other extraordinary items, increased the expenditure about 3,500*l.*

The detailed expenditure of the Colony was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Civil Establishment	3,137	16	9
Judicial Establishment	2,123	4	2
Ecclesiastical Establishment	3,559	2	6
Education	1,168	0	7
Medical	1,399	19	11
Police	1,988	7	8
Prison	667	0	7
Militia	2,581	8	7
Hospital	2,070	11	8
Sanitary and Registration	716	4	6
Fire Company	426	11	8
Roads	1,743	18	10
Works and buildings	1,468	9	3
Improvement of town of Basseterre	1,554	14	8
Miscellaneous	2,115	13	2
	£26,721	4	6

The following Tables of the financial, agricultural, and commercial position of the Colony for the last ten years disclose a steady and satisfactory progression:—

Year.	Balance in hand of Treasurer.	Balance available for the Service of the succeeding year.	Revenue.					Expenditure.
			Imports.	Exports.		Other Sources.	Total Revenue.	
				Paid by Shipper.	Paid by Ship.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1861	10,353	3,816	12,080	2,329	1,308	4,565	20,282	21,433
1862	9,202	5,422	12,783	2,792	1,446	5,272	22,293	21,371
1863	10,123	5,614	10,701	4,719	1,497	5,055	21,972	22,154
1864	9,940	3,319	11,221	2,683	781	4,760	19,445	21,257
1865	8,129	5,436	12,127	5,804	1,731	5,414	25,076	22,259
1866	10,946	5,200	12,204	4,879	1,577	5,845	24,505	24,926
1867	10,525	6,384	14,695	4,467	1,393	5,764	26,319	26,093
1868	10,749	8,715	15,239	5,438	1,594	11,626	33,897	30,520
1869	14,126	8,714	13,501	4,358	1,310	9,844	29,012	27,584
1870	16,354	12,759	13,645	5,817	1,679	10,317	31,458	26,721

Imports.

Year.	Value of Goods liable to Specific Duty.	Value of Goods liable to ad-valorem Duty.	Value of Goods admitted free of Duty.	Total Value of Imports.
	£	£	£	£
1861	68,181	55,382	13,575	136,938
1862	95,777	56,522	14,573	166,872
1863	89,448	51,882	10,560	157,890
1864	129,137	46,617	12,915	188,669
1865	76,977	60,729	13,688	151,394
1866	87,610	76,270	13,695	177,575
1867	87,148	76,988	13,188	177,324
1868	99,836	80,574	18,293	198,709
1869	106,271	59,493	17,312	183,076
1870	113,774	63,702	18,576	196,052

The value of imports from the respective sources of importation was as follows:—

Great Britain, 89,000*l.*, or 45·40 per cent.; British West Indian Colonies, 24,833*l.*, or 12·67 per cent.; British North America, 9,492*l.*, or 4·84 per cent.; United States of America, 61,664*l.*, or 31·45 per cent.; foreign possessions, 11,062*l.*, or 5·64 per cent.

EXPORTS.

Year.	Sugar.			Rum.		Molasses.			Pounds of Tous-les-mois and Arrowroot.	Barrels of Salt.	Barrels of Potatoes.	Value of other produce.	Value of Exports, produce of Colony.	Value of Exports not the produce of Colony.	Total Value of all Exports.
	Hhds.	Tierces.	Barrels.	Puns.	Hhds.	Puns.	Hhds.	Barrels.				£.	£.	£.	
1861	8,651	225	5,478	1,240	18	3,127	8	183	25,540	8,752	233	167	145,933	12,291	158,224
1862	9,765	14	6,444	1,404	20	3,127	—	273	15,168	6,616	275	173	159,836	16,121	175,957
1863	10,508	175	7,359	1,045	16	3,032	2	148	69,848	10,666	441	743	159,152	16,533	175,685
1864	5,188	220	4,776	321	15	1,850	—	12	118,420	23,207	1,458	1,523	110,953	14,455	125,408
1865	11,116	250	9,688	1,147	25	4,626	1	125	169,299	33,308	1,862	1,478	182,689	13,486	196,175
1866	11,022	299	6,770	862	12	3,582	2	124	58,008	32,774	2,520	794	152,922	20,469	173,391
1867	9,457	193	5,420	552	8	3,957	3	82	9,936	23,256	3,796	867	177,806	10,332	188,138
1868	10,914	529	6,130	556	28	4,142	—	75	30,463	12,211	3,075	692	197,949	24,763	222,712
1869	8,936	229	3,691	451	2	3,953	1	48	27,536	17,026	2,070	995	185,719	19,836	206,556
1870	12,111	225	5,253	779	18	4,001	1	37	40,485	14,090	4,137	1,717	244,684	27,678	272,362

Shipping.

Year.	With Cargoes.				In Ballast.				Total Tonnage.	
	Ships.		Tonnage.		Ships.		Tonnage.		Ships.	Tonnage.
	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.		
1861	315	207	16,434	6,332	68	45	2,092	882	635	25,738
1862	344	184	17,927	7,145	81	53	4,418	378	662	29,868
1863	363	168	19,920	5,579	62	42	3,605	889	635	29,993
1864	338	136	15,279	4,642	100	54	3,883	1,255	622	25,059
1865	322	209	19,337	5,467	58	52	3,286	1,606	641	29,696
1866	292	293	20,230	5,524	108	50	5,580	1,149	743	32,483
1867	307	89	21,517	6,218	86	73	4,769	346	755	32,850
1868	301	337	21,462	6,512	78	98	5,298	1,786	814	35,058
1869	294	299	22,096	5,677	84	84	4,274	288	761	32,335
1870	282	340	21,909	6,036	91	119	5,028	415	832	33,388

	Ships.	Tonnage.
Great Britain - - - - - -	39	12,227
British Colonies - - - - -	334	14,884
Denmark - - - - - -	17	558
United States of America - - -	17	2,429
Holland - - - - - -	259	1,654
France - - - - - - -	28	269
Sweden - - - - - -	134	1,082
Prussia - - - - - - -	1	249
Haytien - - - - - -	3	36
	832	33,388

The Immigration Fund (created by an export tax as already shown) was in credit on the 1st of January:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In English Funds, at interest - -	1,266	13	6
„ Local Treasury „ - -	2,129	18	6

The larger portion of the latter sum is on deposit in the Colonial Bank at 4 per cent. interest per annum. A remission of three-fourths of the tax was made by legislative enactment.

Public Debt.

A loan of 9,200*l.* was raised for the purpose of assisting freeholders in the re-erection of their houses after the fire of July, 1867, but even this small sum, although originally applied for before the issuing of the debentures, has not all been taken up, only 8,000*l.* having been advanced to freeholders.

An annual drawing took place, under the provisions of the Act, in October, when five debenture numbers of 100*l.* each were drawn, four of which were paid at the Crown Agent's office in London, and one at the local Treasury.

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Legislation.

Five Acts became law during the year—three for the appropriation of moneys for the public service; one remitting three-fourths of the export tax for immigration purposes, it being thought unnecessary to increase the fund; and one renewing the Road Act, with some few alterations. By this latter Act, estates are bound to keep the public road passing through their lines in good order; the roads are classified and paid for according to the classification. The system may be somewhat arbitrary, but there can be no doubt of its successful working. The compensation allowed by law fully repays for the work performed.

The Resolutions relating to the Federation of the Leeward Islands were passed this year. Opposition was raised against the measure, but the opponents adduced no sound arguments against its adoption, while many in their ranks acknowledged that the scheme presented many useful and beneficial features.

Civil Establishment.

Lieutenant-Governor Cairns resigned the reins of Government in May, and the Honourable Francis Spencer Wigley, Esq., was appointed Administrator. Hugh Riley Semper, Esq., was appointed by Sir B. C. C. Pine to act as Attorney-General and Police Magistrate; subsequently, upon Mr. Semper's going to England on leave, F. S. Wigley, jun., Esq., was appointed to act in his stead.

Pensions.

Four pensioners receive in the aggregate 50*l.*; two were privates in the Police Force, and two widows, whose husbands were killed while firing salutes.

Population.

In 1861 was 24,440, being 11,437 males, and 13,003 females. During the year there were 1,251 births against 894 deaths, and 156 marriages—Anglican, 79; Wesleyan, 49; Moravian, 13; Roman Catholic, 15.

Military Expenditure.

The militia consists of two troops of cavalry, consisting collectively of six officers and forty-five men, and one Horse Artillery Corps of two officers and twenty-two privates. The force turns out for drill eight times a year. Arms and ammunition are furnished by the Government, and equipments and clothing by the estates sending troopers. The Horse Artillery are paid 30*l.* per man a year, and the cavalry 25*l.* per man. A special export tax of 4*s.* 2*d.* on every hogshead of sugar shipped creates a fund for this expenditure.

Public Works.

The public buildings all underwent, more or less, repairs. The repair of the Dieppe Bay Pier, the footpaths and channels in the streets in the town of Basseterre, and the painting of the hospital, &c., all tended to swell the outlay for the year. The construction of

the Basseterre Water-works made but little progress; the reservoir was commenced and the pipe track partially cleared and surveyed.

Savings Bank.

There are eight depositors in the bank; the deposits amount to 91*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*; the interest is 3 per cent. per annum.

Immigration.

From Madeira, the East Indies, and Africa.

During the last nine years 1,044 persons have arrived and been indentured; the dates of arrival and nationality were as follows:—

Year.	From			Males.	Females.
	Madeira.	Calcutta.	Africa.		
1861 - -	43	337	..	238	142
1862 - -	50	..	..	25	25
1863 - -	219	..	223	216	226
1866 - -	15	..	..	7	8
1867 - -	51	..	..	34	17
1869 - -	53	..	..	26	27
1870 - -	53	..	..	27	26
	484	337	223	573	471

The greater number of these immigrants, with the exception of some of the East Indians and Portuguese who emigrated to Demerara and Trinidad, have settled in the Colony. The census taken this year (1871) returns their numbers at—Portuguese, 836; Africans, 295; and East Indians, 61.

Some planters, as they are occasionally pressed for labour during crop, "spasmodically" ask for immigrants, but, as a rule, there is a fair amount of labour in the Colony; an annual importation to the extent of 100 persons would always suffice to stimulate native industry.

The increased production of the soil with the small addition, as shown by the Table, of imported labour and the unaltered rate of wage for field-work, would imply that labour was, if not abundant, sufficient. The limit of cultivation has been almost arrived at in this Colony; for increased prosperity the planters must look to machinery. Therefore, on the one hand, a moderate supply of labour to be provided by immigration as a stimulus will suffice; on the other, greater intelligence will be required for the manipulation of more complicated sugar works; for this purpose a higher wage would attract the mechanic to the performance of these duties, as his resources are ever precarious, and his pay ranges from 1*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* a day, while the number of artisans far exceeds the ordinary demand for their services.

Education.

I append to this Report a letter from the Inspector of Schools, to which I beg reference. The number of schools receiving Govern-

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ment aid is 28—Anglican 13, on the books, 1,093 scholars; Wesleyan 9, on the books, 1,016 scholars; Moravian 6, on the books, 792 scholars. The total number of children on the books is 2,901, and the average attendance 1,732.

The following Table exhibits the number of schools, average attendance, &c., for the last ten years:—

COMPARATIVE ANNUAL SCHOOL RETURN.

Year.	No. of Schools receiving Government Aid.	Average Attendance.	Equal by law to	Amount of School-pence.
				£ s. d.
1861 - -	27	1,416	1,079	282 2 9
1862 - -	25	1,373	1,119	258 13 6
1863 - -	26	1,422	1,109	270 1 2
1864 - -	24	1,243	979	239 7 6
1865 - -	27	1,367	1,042	272 16 8
1866 - -	26	1,347	1,146	286 19 11
1867 - -	25	1,464	1,257	294 7 10
1868 - -	27	1,746	1,451	332 9 1
1869 - -	28	1,700	1,451	316 17 10
1870 - -	28	1,732	1,485	318 5 2

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

The births show an increase of 17 over the previous year, while the deaths exhibit a decrease of 17. The number of births, in excess of deaths, for the year was 357. Marriages maintain the number of last year:—

BIRTHS.

1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
1,140	1,098	1,211	1,245	1,212	1,232	1,273	1,236	1,234	1,251

DEATHS.

1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
894	877	947	881	786	724	902	1,021	962	894

MARRIAGES.

1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
111	140	93	74	120	107	88	161	158	156

General.

I am glad to be enabled to close this Report by adverting to the very satisfactory condition of the agricultural body in this island. The sugar crop was in excess of that of 1869, and the continued importation of additional and improved machinery must tend still more

to develop the resources of this fertile island. Continued energy and machinery must be the stand-by for the future; the land is cultivated almost to its utmost limit, and ever grateful in return for careful tillage and good manuring, it has yielded its increase in bountiful harvests. Improved quality of sugar must now be the planters' aim, and I see no reason why Barbados and Demerara should hold the palm for "brighter straw" or "finer crystal" than St. Christopher. As already noticed, immigration to a limited extent will confer some benefit on the agriculturists.

Commerce has not achieved an equal amount of success as agriculture, but propitious seasons and heavy exports will soon resuscitate trade, and revivify embers of prosperity that have been temporarily dimmed by the difficulties attendant upon the fire of 1867, and the reaction of an unnatural and stimulated trade immediately subsequent thereto.

The sanitary state of the Island has been good throughout the year; no epidemic appeared in our midst; health, in conjunction with good seasons and crops, have conduced to the comfort and happiness of our people, who as a rule are contented, law abiding, and loyal.

* * * * *

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. M. ELDRIDGE,
Secretary to Government.

Enclosure 3 in No. 14.

Enclosure 3 in No. 14.

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Basseterre, St. Christopher,
October 14, 1871.

SIR,

In furnishing you with a short report on the condition of the St. Christopher Grammar School, for the year 1870, I am sorry to have to say that my anticipations of a gradual recovery from the diminution in numbers consequent on the fire of 1867 have met with no degree of realization.

During the four quarters of last year the scholars numbered, respectively, 11, 12, 12, and 9, in each instance, including one of my own sons.

During the quarter ending June 30th, 1870, the extent to which sickness was prevalent among the boys generally was such as to render regular class-work an impossibility, and to make the quarter practically lost as to sound progress in study.

I have throughout seen a fair number of boys whose age and position should make them eligible for the Grammar School, but I also know thoroughly well that their parents are unable to meet the expense, low though the scale of fees may appear, of sending them, anxious as, I also of my own knowledge can affirm, some of them are that they should have the benefits of an education which they have no chance of elsewhere obtaining.

More docile, well-conducted boys than have uniformly come under

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my notice here, I could not wish to find; it is an extremely rare exception for a boy, after his first few days at the school, to show the slightest symptom of recalcitrance, impertinence, sulkiness, or obstinacy, or to give me any cause to complain of want of industry during school-hours.

Such boys as have come in long distances from the country—six to seven miles—have mainly turned out failures, the opportunities for playing truant without immediate discovery being too tempting and too easy.

On the whole, I cannot speak hopefully of the prospects of the school, and can only see the way to a better state of affairs should the school, by means of boarding accommodation, be attended from this and the neighbouring islands—whence tolerably frequent inquiries come as to the possibility of receiving boys—by at least from 30 to 40 scholars; with numbers not less than these there might be some hope of counterbalancing, by emulation and ambition, the lamentable want of energy, due to the climate, which must always, even under the most favourable circumstances, be a drawback in tropical schools. As things have of late been with us, the only remedy applicable, seeing that the amount of confinement during school-hours is quite as much as in this part of the world is consistent with health, is bodily punishment, which in England I can hardly recall an instance of my being obliged to employ for shortcomings in lessons, being able there to reserve it, as I would desire to do, for more or less serious moral offences.

Both as regards the Grammar School and the Industrial Schools in this Island, I am anxiously and, I must add, very hopefully awaiting the action to arise from the scheme of Federation soon to be expected to come into operation.

Though not bearing upon matters of last year, it may not be out of the way to mention finally that, during the present year, two boys have come to the school from the rising portion of the coloured class, and from this source I have reason to expect more; to them the gain will be very great, provided that the staple element of the school should remain as heretofore, white.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) HENRY W. MARSHALL, M.A.,

Principal of the Grammar School, and H.M. Inspector of Schools in the Island of St. Christopher.

The Hon. C. M. Eldridge, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

NEVIS.

No. 15.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Administrator WIGLEY to The OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

(No. 192.)

SIR, St. Christopher, October 14, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Nevis for 1870, together with a report thereon, from Mr. Eldridge, the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

The Officer administering the Government, Antigua. (Signed) F. SPENCER WIGLEY.

Enclosure in No. 15.

NEVIS BLUE BOOK REPORT.

Finance.

It is gratifying to find that, after due provision for the public departments and institutions, and a liberal expenditure on the roads, the balances in hand at the close of the year bears a favourable comparison with those of the past two years. Thus 1868 closed with a balance of 1,414*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*; 1869 with a balance of 4,790*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, and 1870 with a balance of 7,216*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, of which 5,755*l.* 5*s.* 1½*d.* belonged to the General Revenue, and 1,461*l.* 8*s.* 0½*d.* to the Road Fund.

The sources of revenue remain unaltered, with the exception of the repeal of the Act (in the middle of the year) levying an additional 25 per cent. upon imports and exports, &c., for the especial purpose of augmenting the Road Fund. The larger proportion of revenue is derived from import duties, yielding 5,477*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*; exports, 1,316*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*; tonnage, 489*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*; licences, 540*l.*; these sums are supplemented by—fines, Police Court, 181*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*; fees, Registrar and Marshal, 84*l.* 5*s.* 8½*d.*; Post Office, 61*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*; miscellaneous receipts, comprising interest on Bank deposits, Governor's fees, rents, &c., 190*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* In addition to these sums the horse and carriage tax gave 266*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, and the statute labour tax, 221*l.* 4*s.*, which amounts were carried to the Road Fund. These several receipts made a total revenue of 8,829*l.* 18*s.* 5½*d.*

The expenditure has been nearly 800*l.* in excess of the previous year; this may readily be accounted for by the increased expenditure on the roads and public buildings, together with the salaries (for broken periods of the year) of two of the district medical officers and Superintendent of Public Works, and the pension of two public officers.

The saving effected by the union of the Treasury and Customs, and rigid surveillance of the public accounts, will go far, it is hoped, to

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counterbalance the additional charges for the medical officers at the rate of 600*l.* per annum, and for the Superintendent of Public Works, 230*l.*

The revenue and expenditure of the past four years were as follow:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1867	6,248	5,352
1868	8,058	6,676
1869	9,006	5,631
1870	8,830	6,404

The returns give the value of imports and exports at the following figures, for the years 1867 to 1870:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1867	40,656	31,021
1868	54,808	Return unreliable.
1869	61,013	57,668
1870	54,286	64,119

Great Britain sends 17,466*l.*; British North America, 2,378*l.*; British West Indies, St. Christopher, 18,033*l.*; Barbados, 9,525*l.*, and other Colonies, 851*l.*; United States of America, 5,230*l.*; Foreign West India Possessions, 773*l.*

It is worthy of observance, that out of about 37,000*l.* worth of imports, the greater portion of which are of United States' growth and manufacture, only 5,230*l.* are of direct import. These goods being thus subjected to heavy intercolonial charges of freight and commission, are necessarily much enhanced in cost to the consumer; a diminution in port and import dues might encourage a direct trade, which an increased consumption, fostered by cheaper goods, would readily recoup to the Treasury. A readjustment of the tariff is imperatively needed; food and necessaries of life are charged a much higher percentage than luxuries, while the table of exemptions embraces many articles, which might fairly be made to contribute to the general taxation. Silks, jewelry, wines, and spirits, pay the same duty, 8 per cent. ad valorem, as cottons and common articlesof clothing; flour, meal, and rice pay from 10 to 15 per cent.; pork pays 20 per cent.; while manures, mills, steam-engines, stills, sugar-pans, furnaces, ploughs, and carts, are exempt from any duty.

Legislative.

The legislation of the past year embraces many useful measures, the most important of which may be classified and noticed as follows:—

Fiscal.

The Act for uniting the offices of the Treasury and Customs, and placing them under the supervision of one officer, at a salary of 300*l.* per annum, has economy and greater efficiency to recommend it; further legislation provides for the appointment of a clerk at 80*l.* per

annum, to assist in the in-door department of the united establishments. The Act placing an additional 25 per centum on imports, exports, &c., was repealed in the middle of the year, as the Road Fund, to which its proceeds were specially appropriated, had at the time an accumulated balance sufficient for the contemplated improvement and repairs of the roads. Acts providing for the pensions of two retired public officers were passed during the year.

Judicial.

The Act to afford summary redress for the unlawful detention of property gives the magistrate jurisdiction to the value of 20*l.*; the provisions are full and remedies effectual.

The Act to provide for appeals from summary convictions and orders before justices of the peace, provides an appeal against "any decision" as against the restriction in the old Act, which only allowed an appeal upon "a conviction."

The Act uniting the offices of Marshal and Registrar promises facilities to suitors by enabling them to transact their business with one department instead of two; but a junior officer to assist in recording and comparing deeds and documents, and to take charge of the office during the Registrar's absence on duty in Court or otherwise, is absolutely necessary.

Agricultural.

The Act extending the provisions of the Act for regulating the rights and duties of masters and servants, had for its object the encouragement of the introduction and indenture of intercolonial emigrants under a service of three years; 38 immigrants have been indentured under its provisions.

General.

The Act providing for the appointment of a Superintendent of Public Works to take charge of all public buildings, piers, roads, and bridges, securing the undivided attention of a salaried officer, under the immediate control of the Governor, cannot fail to ensure greater economy and better care of the public interest.

The Medical Aid Act provides for the appointment of three district medical officers, who afford gratuitous medical and surgical aid to children under 10 years of age, and adults over 60 years' of the labouring population and to the members of the Police Force. It further provides for medical and surgical aid to any labourer at a moderate scale of charges fixed by the Governor in Council. The benefits to be derived from this Act cannot be over-estimated.

The Nevis Infirmary Act provides for the transfer of an old, but it is to be feared much-neglected establishment to the Government care, and it is to be hoped that under greater surveillance it may conduce more to the comfort of the sick and needy.

The Act regulating the hours within which shops for the retail of spirituous and other liquors shall be kept open, has already worked to advantage.

Several other Acts of minor importance have become law.

Agriculture.

The crops of the past eight years are as follows:—

	Sugar.			Rum.	Molasses.
	H.	T.	B.	puns.	puns.
1863 - -	2,633	394	7,527	32	1,095
1864 - - -	917	54	3,222	2	481
1865 - -	2,008	100	7,205	41	1,114
1866 - -	2,336	90	7,259	58	1,012
1867 - -	1,385	37	5,300	6	494
1868 - - -	2,772	105	5,717	5	1,309
1869 - -	2,644	139	7,307	2	1,341
1870 - - -	2,725	160	7,680	—	1,618

Increased capital, improved machinery, extended cultivation, have failed materially to improve the crops of the Island, and why? Have the seasons been unpropitious? or have the thews and sinews been lacking in the care, reaping, and manufacture of the produce? The answer is undeniable, the want of labour cripples the energy and limits the operations of the agriculturist. The apathy of the labourer is the planter's bane; the prospect of reward fails to stimulate him to exertion; offers of continuous service produce no attraction; erratic habits, love of change and pleasure, disregard for the morrow, inexpensiveness of living, either as to food or clothing, together with the salubrity of climate, all combine to produce in the native labourer an indisposition for steady employment. Nevis from its peculiar geological features is precluded from using implemental husbandry to any extent. The masses of rock that are seen cropping up in every direction are heaped in every variety of form or are scattered broadcast upon the face of the land, defy the plough, and manual labour must be resorted to. The only remedy for this state of things is immigration, and this is only required to a limited extent; 200 or 300 indentured Coolies or Portuguese would be sufficient, on the one hand, to stimulate the native labourer to industrious habits; and on the other, to place the agriculturist, in emergent cases, with the aid of the better disposed and more domesticated natives, in an independent position of extraneous assistance. The aid of the Government is urgently needed to prevent this fertile island from relapsing into difficulties; a helping hand may not only avert impending retrogradation, but may open a prosperous pathway for a generous emulation with the neighbouring colony of St. Christopher.

Public Works.

The various public buildings have undergone more or less repair, at a cost of 250*l.* Increased shipping accommodation is urgently needed at Charlestown and New Castle. A bridge on the main road from town to New Castle is required for safety, as well as to facilitate traffic; the road, through a dead sand, is at all times laborious, while heavy rains or high surfs cause a treacherous shifting sand, alike dangerous to man and beast. There is a marked improvement in the condition of the roads in the parishes of St. Thomas, and it is to be hoped that in a short time the roads of this Colony will be in a most satisfactory condition.

Education.

The returns from the clergymen of the Anglican Church give the following results:—Two new school-rooms have been erected and one considerably enlarged, at an expense of about 390*l.* The average attendance in these schools is 432. The cost of maintenance was 201*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* The Legislature gave no grant towards the erection and extension of the school-rooms. The expense of maintenance was raised, 88*l.* from English funds, 44*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* from fees, 47*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* from the Legislature, and 21*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* from other sources. The schools of the Wesleyan Church gave an average attendance of 502, and the expense of maintenance 182*l.*—from the Legislative Assembly 50*l.*, fees 72*l.*, and other sources 60*l.*

Savings Bank.

The want of such an institution under Government control is much needed, and the Legislature having taken the matter in hand, the people will doubtless soon have a safe depository for their earnings.

Political Franchise.

The five elected members in the Legislative Assembly were returned during the year. The votes recorded were,—St. Paul's, 17; St. John, 7; St. George, 4; St. James, 14; St. Thomas 7. The qualification is a property one of 4*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* per annum. This limited use of the franchise does not evince much interest in the political affairs of the Colony.

Marriages, Births, and Deaths.

The returns show 137 marriages, 572 births, and 331 deaths for the year.

General Remarks.

Amongst the most notable of the Acts of the Legislative Assembly this year, was the passing of the Resolutions relating to the Federation of the Leeward Islands. The measure was unpopular; partially from want of information, which when offered few would listen to, partially from fear that the overwhelming influences of the larger Colonies would create offices and cause increased expenditure and taxation; and in a great measure from personal hostility to the talented Governor who inaugurated the scheme. The ratification of the Imperial Act by Her Gracious Majesty will be the signal for the Nevisians to display that loyalty and law-abiding love, on which they justly pride themselves. They failed to sustain their opposition to the measure, but will then accept their position and do all they can to test the efficiency and well-working of the scheme. Time will gradually heal personal animosities, and Federation will develop its usefulness. A common interest and a closer bond of union will tend to rouse ambition, develop latent abilities and resources, and these hitherto small and unknown but brilliant isolated spots in the Caribbean Sea, will acquire status, invite capital, and uncultivated acres will resume their pristine verdure, and "the wealth of the Indies" will no longer be a thing of the past. The Medical Aid Bill indirectly and directly affects immigration, both in the case of those

NEVIS.

already here and those who may soon be expected. Adults over 60 years of age and children under 10 years of age are gratuitously provided for; while all labourers, including handicraftsmen, menial and predial servants, boatmen and porters, are attended under a moderate scale of charges fixed by the Governor in Council; and all persons suffering from prolonged illness, or who from age or infirmity are unable to earn their subsistence, are duly provided for.

Taxation is not excessive, amounting to about 15*s.* 1*d.* per head, and with diligent collection is sufficient for the wants of the Colony. A readjusted tariff (to which I have already alluded), a modification of the Complaint Court fees, and a repeal of the statute labour tax would be desirable. With reference to the Complaint Court, magisterial jurisdiction should be allowed for petty debts to the extent of 40*s.* and no appeal, and the statute labour should be abolished. The records of crime exhibit no offences of any magnitude; petty thefts are more common than they ought to be, and that regard for the property of one's neighbour is much ignored, while the punishment of incarceration affords no terror to the thief; wholesome diet, good clothing, and moderate labour, in many instances offer a premium to idleness and vice. The gaol is too small for the introduction of shot drill, or the treadwheel, while the nominal hard labour of breaking stones, sweeping streets, or weeding trenches is not to be compared to the physical exertions of the honest labourer who literally earns his bread by the sweat of his brow.

The health of the Colony has been good, no epidemic has existed, while the ordinary tropical diseases have in no way increased the usual mortality. General good order and obedience to the laws of the land are manifested throughout the community.

I have &c.,

(Signed) C. M. ELDRIDGE,
Colonial Secretary.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from President MOIR to Lieutenant-Governor MUNDY.

(No. 93.)

SIR, Tortola, May 3, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1870.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

2. I have no remarks to offer on the method of taxation and collection of duties pursued here, at variance with or supplementary to those which I had the honour to submit to the Governor-in-Chief in my Despatches, No. 11, of the 24th January, and No. 51, of the 11th June, 1870.

Fees.

3. Ordinance No. 3, of 1870, was enacted so as "To appropriate "to the public service the fees which are now payable to the President "of the Virgin Islands and his Private Secretary." That Ordinance became law on the 2nd day of June. The fees payable to the Government and to other public officers continue as before, as fully reported in my Despatch, No. 49, of the 28th May, 1870, and in the Blue Book returns for 1869.

Revenue and Expenditure.

4. The revenue and expenditure for the last three years are shown in the following Tables:—

REVENUE.

	1868.			1869.			1870.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs	1,849	11	9	1,088	1	10	1,013	8	1¾
Licences	159	19	6	171	11	8½	230	17	9½
Taxes	240	7	3	326	0	1½	364	18	5½
Post Office	13	14	7½	12	8	4	16	19	6½
Fines and penalties	47	15	4¾	21	5	8½	29	8	9¾
Wrecks	15	19	11¾	5	10	6¾	318	18	0
President fees		—			—		3	6	0
Miscellaneous	52	5	3¾	30	7	4	81	0	3
	2,379	13	9¾	1,655	5	7¼	2,058	17	0
Balances from previous years	25	14	7¾	321	4	8	6	17	1
	£2,405	8	5½	1,976	9	8¼	2,065	14	1

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

EXPENDITURE.

	1868.			1869.			1870.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Treasurer's Department							299	15	0¼
Judicial „							25	1	4½
Provost Marshal „							200	0	0
Ecclesiastical Department							122	0	0
Charitable „							230	12	6¾
Educational „							120	0	0
Roads and Bridges							48	10	6
Police							66	7	8
Post Office							54	19	0½
Gaol	2,084	4	4	1,969	12	7¼	192	12	11½
Public Buildings							134	16	1¾
Board of Health							26	19	11¾
Printing and Stationery							56	8	1½
Registration of B. and D.							17	12	0
Inquests							15	17	7½
Office Contingencies							19	18	9½
Militia							1	18	11½
Steamer 'Telegrafo'							276	3	9¾
Debts due and paid							43	16	6½
	2,084	4	4	1,969	12	7¼	1,953	11	1¼
Balances to following years	321	4	1½	6	17	1	112	2	11¾
	£2,405	8	5½	1,976	9	8¼	2,065	14	1

Previously to 1870 the Treasurer's cash-book had been made up without exhibiting clearly the various receipts and charges in each department, classed separately under their different heads. That defect has now been remedied, and the receipts and expenditure under every head and for any portion of the year can be immediately ascertained.

Legislation.

5. The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during 1870:—

Ordinance No. 1, 1870. To enable the Chief Judge of the General Court to hold special courts for the transaction of business not requiring a jury.

Ordinance No. 2, 1870. The appropriation of Revenue Ordinance for the year 1870.

Ordinance No. 3, 1870. To appropriate to the public service the fees which are now payable to the President of the Virgin Islands and his Private Secretary.

Ordinance No. 4, 1870. To provide for taking a census of the inhabitants of these islands.

Ordinance No. 5, 1870. Petty Sessions Amendment Ordinance for the year 1870.

Ordinance No. 6, 1870. For granting a retiring allowance to Wm. Wright King, of these islands.

Ordinance No. 7, 1870. The Supplemental Road Ordinance, 1870.

But by far the most important work of the Council was the adoption by it on the 10th August of certain "Resolutions" approving of the

Federation of the Leeward Islands into one Colony, and respectfully requesting Her Majesty's Government to cause such "Resolutions" to be embodied in an Act of the Imperial Parliament, together with all such provisions as might be necessary to give them full force and effect. These "Resolutions," together with my speech, and the reply of the Council, were transmitted in my Despatch, No. 61, of the 12th August, were approved by the Governor-in-Chief, and subsequently, in a special manner, by the Secretary of State. It will be here necessary to quote only the last paragraph of that speech, as showing the views I then held, and the hopes I at that time entertained. "In referring you to the unanimity with which this measure "was accepted by the Legislative Council of Antigua, which I was "fortunate enough to witness, and to the prospect of its receiving the "sanction of other independent colonies to windward, I cannot but "congratulate you on this invitation to be associated in a work "which, it is my opinion, should not be permitted to terminate with, "or be confined to the Leeward Islands, but that, embracing all the "sister colonies in the Caribbean Sea, which may willingly unite "with us, we should, without much delay, grasp the friendly hand of "the Dominion which not long ago was held out to us, in the hope "and expectation that those mutual benefits which would by such a "union accrue to the north and to the south may be realized, and "the children of one great parent Government, divergent for long in "their immediate pursuits and dwelling-places, may once more in a "political and mercantile union converge for their mutual advan-"tage; and I can conceive that our common country will view with "much satisfaction the realization of her hope that those who have "long left her to fight their several independent parts in the battle "of life are not unmindful of their common origin, but now evince "anxiety to draw closer that connection of which she was the author, "and of which I hope she may ever continue the nucleus and "support."

Population.

6. In the expectation that the Blue Book returns would be completed and placed in my hands long ere this, I had compiled certain tables embracing information for the last ten years, in anticipation of the general census which was taken on the 5th of last month. Besides the check on the census returns, which these tables would afford if correctly and regularly kept, I think other useful ends will be obtained by their publication. The annual compilation which ought to have been made by the Registrar-General from the District Registrar's returns has been, so far as I can discover, totally neglected. The labour in compiling the last ten years has consequently been considerable, and in all probability we cannot safely pronounce it free from errors; but I trust that for the future those useful tables may be carefully prepared from year to year, with such improvements as time and experience shall suggest; for they will, to some extent, constitute a social meter, showing the state of morals and health in each district in the Virgin Islands, which may be referred to with some degree of confidence for reliable information on these important subjects, and to which the necessary remedies may from time to time be applied.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

BIRTHS.

District.	Year.	Legitimate. M.	Legitimate. F.	Illegitimate. M.	Illegitimate. F.	Totals.
A	1861	16	12	3	4	35
B		17	10	1	3	31
C		9	1	2	3	15
D		37	23	21	18	99
E		7	4	8	4	23
F		3	9	5	2	19
		89	59	40	34	222
A	1862	19	17	3	8	47
B		8	7	2	2	19
C		3	3	3	3	12
D		22	21	23	21	87
E		11	6	7	5	29
F		9	4	4	4	21
		72	58	42	43	215
A	1863	20	17	10	4	51
B		13	13	7	2	35
C		6	6	4	6	22
D		26	30	36	23	115
E		8	8	8	5	29
F		9	5	6	3	23
		82	79	71	43	275
A	1864	19	14	5	5	43
B		11	9	—	1	21
C		2	1	4	10	17
D		19	32	27	22	100
E		7	7	8	5	27
F		5	7	4	2	18
		63	70	48	45	226
A	1865	10	16	5	6	37
B		19	10	1	1	31
C		8	5	3	3	19
D		30	18	21	19	88
E		6	6	9	5	26
F		4	3	6	1	14
		77	58	45	35	215

District.	Year.	Legitimate. M.	Legitimate. F.	Illegitimate. M.	Illegitimate. F.	Totals.
A	1866	13	13	3	4	33
B		13	7	3	3	26
C		6	5	4	6	21
D		15	21	14	20	70
E		4	4	8	4	20
F		8	7	1	—	16
		59	57	33	37	186
A	1867	15	8	6	2	31
B		7	14	—	1	22
C		9	6	5	7	27
D		26	21	16	25	88
E		3	11	6	2	22
F		2	5	1	4	12
		62	65	34	41	202
A	1868	14	10	2	1	27
B		7	12	1	—	20
C		7	5	4	4	20
D		25	11	22	7	65
E		7	3	3	5	18
F		4	5	1	3	13
		64	46	33	20	163
A	1869	10	13	4	—	27
B		16	7	1	4	28
C		2	3	6	13	24
D		27	26	16	14	83
E		6	4	3	5	18
F		10	1	1	4	16
		71	54	31	40	196
A	1870	9	15	5	4	33
B		5	4	—	1	10
C		8	7	1	7	23
D		20	27	28	25	100
E		2	5	3	5	15
F		7	6	2	2	17
		51	64	39	44	198

Period.	District.	Legitimate. Males.	Legitimate. Females.	Illegitimate. Males.	Illegitimate. Females.	Totals.
For ten years, from 1861 to 1870 inclusive - -	A	145	135	46	38	364
	B	116	93	16	18	243
	C	60	42	36	62	200
	D	247	230	224	194	895
	E	61	58	63	45	227
	F	61	52	31	25	169
		690	610	416	382	2,098

Although the result is not quite so bad as in others of the West India Islands, the above Tables disclose a very low state of morality.

Deaths.

Period.	District.	Under 1 year.		From 1 to 10 years.		From 11 to 20 years.		From 21 to 30 years.		From 31 to 40 years.		From 41 to 50 years.		From 51 to 60 years.		From 61 to 70 years.		Upwards of 70 years.		Totals.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
For ten years, from 1861 to 1870, both inclusive	A	17	19	9	8	6	6	7	7	3	4	8	4	4	10	5	3	9	14	68	75
	B	11	10	9	3	5	8	3	6	3	3	5	5	2	3	—	2	9	8	47	48
	C	8	11	9	2	5	2	3	3	3	2	1	2	1	4	7	—	6	4	43	30
	D	66	39	43	27	32	28	35	29	29	38	38	33	42	24	38	42	35	55	358	315
	E	23	12	13	17	6	8	8	12	10	7	16	7	11	13	11	9	11	10	109	95
	F	15	17	23	14	9	4	8	9	11	3	6	6	6	7	4	7	4	6	86	73
		140	108	106	71	63	56	64	66	59	57	74	57	66	61	65	63	74	97	711	636

Total - - - - - 1,347.

Causes of Death.

Accidental	24	
Apoplexy	9	
Asthma	4	
Cancer	0	
Childbirth	16	
Cholera	38	
Consumption	240	
Convulsions	41	
Dentition	31	
Dissipation	6	
Dropsy	63	
Drowning	25	
Dysentery	116	
Carried forward	613	
Brought forward	613	
Epilepsy	8	
Fevers	214	
Heart disease	13	
Whooping cough	17	
Inflammation	38	
Injuries	54	
Jaundice	13	
Leprosy	3	
Liver complaint	26	
Measles	4	
Natural decay from old age	185	
Paralysis	12	
Carried forward	1,200	
Brought forward	1,200	
Rheumatism	8	
Rupture	8	
Scurvy	8	
Small-pox	31	
Still-born	13	
Stricture	4	
Tetanus	50	
Ulcers	18	
Worms	7	
Unknown or unassigned	0	
Total	1,347	

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

MARRIAGES.

Years.	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	Totals.
1861 - -	10	—	6	22	—	2	40
1862 - - -	6	1	2	17	2	1	29
1863 - -	6	5	1	12	—	2	26
1864 - - -	6	—	6	15	5	3	35
1865 - -	7	—	3	12	—	1	23
1866 - - -	1	4	6	16	—	—	27
1867 - -	2	2	1	27	—	9	41
1868 - - -	9	3	2	28	10	3	55
1869 - -	4	3	2	13	6	—	28
1870 - - -	10	2	2	13	5	3	35
	61	20	31	175	28	24	339

Education.

7. The grant of money which this Colony can afford to set apart for educational purposes is so very small, that when partitioned among the thirteen teachers in the Church and Wesleyan schools, we cannot expect instructors of great ability can be procured for the insignificant salaries allotted to each. However, I can speak favourably of the principal Wesleyan school and its teacher, who is efficient and successful; and his Lordship the Bishop is most desirous to secure an able master for the Church school in town, when he shall be able to induce a capable man to undertake the charge in this Island.

Imports and Exports.

8. The value of the imports and exports for the last two years was as follows:—

	Imports. £	s.	d.	Exports. £	s.	d.
1869 - -	6,120	6	2½	8,210	0	6
1870 - -	4,425	5	4	6,808	7	3
	£1,695	0	10½	£1,401	13	3

There has, however, been only an apparent falling off in the value of imports, for by the occurrence of a valuable wreck on the Anegada reef—the same on which the unfortunate Royal mail ship 'Paramatta' was lost—goods to the value of upwards of 3,500*l.* were saved, and thrown into the general market. Legitimate importations must necessarily have diminished, but the duty received on these wrecked goods contributed to the maintenance of the general revenue.

Gaol.

9. This building continues in the same condition as when I reported on the Blue Book for 1869, and in my Despatch, No. 84, of the 26th December last, in reply to the Secretary of State's Despatch, No. 15, of 8th August, 1870, upon the same subject. I am happy to be able to speak of the little use the cells have been put to since

that date; and judging from outward appearances, and the small number of persons committed during the year, we must hope that the social and moral condition of the people is improving, and that an advance has been made towards a purer and happier state of things in the future.

10. Fine and seasonable weather contributed to the material comfort and the physical health of the mass of the population, and I hope that by next mail I shall be in a position to give reliable statistics of the number, and other useful particulars of the people, who appear contented with their present condition.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ALEX. W. MOIR.

Lieut.-Governor Mundy,
&c. &c. &c.

DOMINICA.

No. 17.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor FREELING to The OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

(No. 37.)

SIR, Government House, Roseau, May 8, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book for the year 1870, the accuracy of which has been certified by the Colonial Secretary, together with my report thereon.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) S. FREELING,
Lieut.-Governor.

The Officer Administering the Government,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 17.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK RETURNS OF DOMINICA FOR THE YEAR 1870.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year amounted to 15,721*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*; the expenditure to 15,248*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*

In 1869 the revenue was 15,620*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*; expenditure, 13,947*l.* 16*s.* 7½*d.*

Compared with 1869 there is a decrease on two sources of revenue of about 1,642*l.*, thus:—

	£
Loan Liquidation Account - - - -	1,441
Harbour dues - - - - - -	105

The Act of 1866, which, by imposing an additional duty of 10 per cent. on all imports, provided for the payment of a loan of 4,100*l.*,

DOMINICA.

expired at the end of 1869; and there being no further necessity for its continuance, it was not re-enacted. The small sum appearing to the credit of this account in the Blue Book is the amount of arrears of the former year collected in 1870. The decrease of 105*l.* on harbour dues is explained by the fact that last year fewer vessels entered this port.

2. There has been an increase of revenue on nearly all the other items amounting to 1,743*l.*, thus:—

	£
Import duties	173
Excise—Rum duty	172
Liquor and still licences	279
Road composition money	454
Ordnance property (arrears of rent)	100

The result is therefore very favourable, because, although there has been an important reduction in the taxation, yet the revenue for the year 1870 exceeded that of the former year by 100*l.*

Expenditure.

3. In comparison with 1869, there is a decrease in several items of expenditure of about 1,511*l.*, thus:—

Public works and buildings	461
Board of Health	175
Printing and stationery	120
Loan Liquidation Account	619

The increase of expenditure on certain accounts amounts to about 2,811*l.*, namely:—

	£
Roads	1,304
Hurricane Loan	812
Town Wardens	153
Grant to Road Fund	370
Grant on a public garden	100

Of the above amounts, that expended on "roads" represents, first, the salaries of registrars of births, &c., which, by reason of a mistake in the new Road Act, are now payable from the Road Fund instead of being paid from the general revenue; secondly, extensive extra repairs to the various roads, and part payment of the expense of opening an entirely new road from the leeward to the windward side of the Island; and thirdly, contributions from the Road Fund towards the expense of erecting an iron bridge.

Hurricane Loan.

4. This was the first renewed instalment of the Hurricane Loan of 1836, the payment of which has to be completed by similar annual instalments during eleven years from the date of the first renewed payment.

Town Wardens.

5. This grant was to place the streets of Roseau in a better state of repair.

The grant to the Road Fund was in aid of the new bridge over the Roseau River.

Thus it will be seen that, with the exception of the Hurricane Loan, the extra expenditure has been on useful public works.

Civil Establishment.

6. The Reverend W. T. Roper, Rector of St. George, died during the year. No new appointment has been made.

Works and Buildings.

7. All the public buildings have been repaired, but Government House will require re shingling in 1872.

An iron bridge, at a cost of about 400*l.*, has been erected over the Roseau River, to the great advantage of the inhabitants of Roseau and of a considerable number of the country population.

A new road has been opened across a considerable tract of country, and brings several of the estates on the windward side into easier communication with the capital.

Public Debt.

8. The amount due to the Imperial Government on account of the Hurricane Loan of 1836 was, at the close of 1870, 7,230*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

Legislative Enactments.

9. Fourteen laws were passed, the most important of which were:—

An Act for the introduction of the Electric Telegraph—a measure that has always contributed towards the welfare and prosperity of communities and of individuals.

A new Road Act, which is an improvement upon the old.

An Act to consolidate the Laws relating to Quarantine, which gives more power to the Board of Health to stamp out contagious and infectious diseases.

A Resolution for the Federation of Dominica with the other Leeward Islands, a measure which I am confident will bring increased prosperity to this Island.

Thus, as regards legislative enactments, the past year has not been barren in useful results.

Population.

10. The Registrar-General returns the population at 28,517.

The population in 1869 was 27,124.

In 1870 there were 875 births against 746 in 1869.

In 1870 there were 95 marriages against 92 in 1869.

In 1870 there were 483 deaths against 504 in 1869.

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Education.

11. There are eighteen Government schools: the number of scholars are—boys, 804; girls, 484, being an increase of 99 scholars.

The schools in Roseau are well managed. Of those in the country I am glad to be able to make generally a more favourable report than I have hitherto been able.

The Inspector is zealous, and anxious to carry into effect any of my suggestions and instructions as regards improvement in teaching.

Imports.

12. The total declared value of imports was 60,277*l.*, being 4,488 less than in 1869.

The value of imports from the United Kingdom was 22,505*l.*; British Colonies, 30,926*l.*; foreign countries, 6,846*l.*

Although less than those of the preceding year, they are much larger than those of 1868. A portion of this decrease may be attributed to the late war, and that supplies to both the French islands of Martinique and Guadaloupe have been stopped, from which large quantities of goods are exported to this Island.

Exports.

13. The declared value of exports was 62,246*l.*, against, in 1869, 57,831*l.*

The quantity of sugar exported was 4,599 hhds., against, in 1869, 4,084 hhds.

Shipping Returns.

14. The shipping returns show—

INWARDS WITH CARGO.

From	1869.			1870.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.
Great Britain - -	15	3,026	123	10	2,152	103
British Colonies - - -	92	3,510	408	92	4,053	422
Foreign Countries - -	153	3,006	550	89	904	300
	260	9,542	1,081	191	7,109	825

INWARDS IN BALLAST.

Where from.	1869.			1870.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.
Great Britain - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
British Colonies - - -	47	623	139	48	858	138
Foreign Countries - -	60	1,565	187	27	264	84
	107	2,188	326	75	1,122	222

OUTWARDS WITH CARGO.

Where for.	1869.			1870.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.
Great Britain - -	16	3,145	136	16	3,433	161
British Colonies - -	130	3,273	500	131	3,352	490
Foreign Countries - -	150	2,111	520	108	1,710	386
	296	8,529	1,156	255	8,495	1,037

OUTWARDS IN BALLAST.

Where for.	1869.			1870.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.
Great Britain - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
British Colonies - -	23	565	90	7	53	20
Foreign Countries - -	46	1,434	155	23	267	64
	69	1,999	245	30	320	84

Lands.

15. The acreage of the Colony is said to be 186,436. The estates in cultivation amount to 188.

Forty-nine new grants, comprising 961 acres of Crown land, were issued.

361*l.* have been collected, and 528*l.* are still due and are payable by instalments.

Gaols and Prisoners.

16. There is one gaol in the Island; it is in Roseau: 248 prisoners were committed in 1870; 285 were committed in 1869.

1870.—Classified.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Debtors - - - -	38	10	48
Road defaulters - - -	13	20	33
Petty thefts - - -	28	9	37
Other offences - - -	98	32	130
	177	71	248

The system now pursued at the gaol is more deterrent in its effects than formerly.

Charitable Institutions.

17. These comprise the Poor-house, Lunatic Asylum, Infirmary, and the Roman Catholic Orphanage.

DOMINICA.

General Remarks.

18. I have every reason to be satisfied with the present financial position of the Island, as notwithstanding the great reduction of taxation and the increased extra expenditure of 804*l.*, from payment of the first renewed instalment of the Hurricane Loan, 1836, I have been enabled to keep the expenditure within 473*l.* of the revenue, and at the same time to make several important public improvements, such as roads, bridges, repair of public buildings, &c.

There was also a balance at the end of the year amounting to 4,480*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*

I consider this Island to be slowly but steadily progressing; and considering the advantages that are likely to accrue from its Federation with the sister islands of the Leeward Group, there is every probability of a still further advance in prosperity.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) S. FREELING,
Lieut.-Governor.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

REPORTS

ON THE

PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS

For the Year 1870.

PART II.—EASTERN COLONIES.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
1872.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY W. CLOWES & SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS.
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1872.

[*C.*—583.] *Price 9d.*

SCHEDULE.

EASTERN COLONIES.

No. in Series.	Colony.	Page.
1	Ceylon - - - - - - -	3
2	Hong Kong - - - - -	22
3	Labuan - - - - - -	56
4	Mauritius and Seychelles - - -	58
5	Straits Settlements (Not received) - - -	138

PART II.

CEYLON.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir HERCULES ROBINSON, K.C.M.G., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 226.)

Queen's House, Colombo, Ceylon,
September 14, 1871.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of Ceylon for the year 1870, and to submit the following Report on its contents :—

Revenue and Expenditure.

	£
2. The revenue for 1870 was - - - -	1,091,606
The expenditure for ditto - - - -	1,026,870
Excess of revenue over expenditure -	£64,736

3. As compared with that of 1869, the revenue of 1870 shows an increase of 145,112*l.* This increase is altogether attributable to the changes which took place on the 1st January, 1870, in connection with the Sinking Fund. From that date the export duties were abolished, and the railway receipts were carried to credit of revenue, an annual contribution to the Sinking Fund of 58,000*l.* for 14 years being made chargeable upon the general revenue of the Colony, The railway receipts for 1870 amounted to 204,114*l.* The export duties in 1869 amounted to 57,007*l.*, leaving a net increase to the revenue of 1870 on these two items of 147,107*l.*, which is nearly 2,000*l.* in excess of the gross increase on the year. The other items therefore of increase and decrease nearly balance each other. There is a decrease of 9,497*l.* under arrears of revenue of former years, which is satisfactory as showing the greater punctuality with which the instalments of rented revenue are now paid in. Under the head of Customs, there is an increase of 15,736*l.* in imports, attributable to the improvement in trade. The increase of 2,066*l.* in land sales is owing to the sale of large tracts of forest in the Central Province adapted for coffee cultivation. Under the head of land revenue, there is a large increase, amounting to 9,736*l.* in the item of paddy, caused chiefly by a productive harvest, and partly by the success of the irrigation scheme, which has led to increased cultivation. The increase of 3,456*l.* in tolls on roads, bridges, &c., affords evidence of increased traffic upon the thoroughfares throughout the Island. The increase of 3,840*l.* in the item of retail of salt under the head of

	£
1870 - -	1,091,606
1869 - -	946,494
	£145,112

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licences, is explained by the fact that the rent of the Jaffna District for 1869 was kept in the hands of the Government, and the receipts from this source were then brought to account under the head of sale of Government property. Under this latter head, consequently, there is a decrease in the receipts of 1870 from salt, as compared with those of 1869, of 4,856*l.* There are also large decreases under this head in two other items, viz. timber, 3,493*l.*, and colonial stores, 10,520*l.*; the former, owing to the restriction in the issue of licences in the Eastern Provinces, and to the fact that a large amount had been realized in 1869 on account of confiscated timber in the Northern Province; the latter owing to large receipts in 1869 on account of iron bridges and other stores issued in that year. As remarked, however, by the Auditor-General, this item of revenue is really only a matter of account; the Government paying in the first instance for stores purchased by it, and recovering their value from time to time, as they are issued for use. There is an increase of 1,652*l.* on postage and postage stamps, which is evidence of increased correspondence; whilst the decrease of 6,777*l.*, under the head of electric telegraph, is caused by the transfer of that Department to the Indian Government. In a word, the main items of decrease are either mere matters of account or are caused by the relinquishment of certain sources of revenue, whilst there is improvement under all the heads which indicate the revival of trade and the advancement of industrial enterprise.

4. The expenditure of 1870, as already stated, amounted to 1,026,870*l.*; that of 1869 was 881,373*l.*, showing an increase of 145,497*l.*

5. This increase is attributable partly to larger expenditure upon public improvements, and partly to the changes, already referred to, which took place at the commencement of last year as regards the Sinking Fund and railway accounts. These last led to the following items being included for the first time in 1870 in the general expenditure of the Colony:—

	£	£
Contribution to Sinking Fund	£16,000	
Interest on Debentures	42,000	
		58,000
Railway establishments	—	30,258
Other railway charges	—	53,324
Total	—	£141,582

On the other hand, the export duties having been abolished, no amount was funded last year, and the accounts show therefore a decreased expenditure under the head of railway liabilities of 63,094*l.*, which was the amount of export duties funded in 1869. This, deducted from 141,582*l.*, leaves a net increased expenditure on account of the railway in 1870, as compared with 1869, of 78,488*l.*

6. The improvement in the state of the finances of the Colony enabled the Government also to undertake more extensive public works, and to procure a larger supply of stores from England. There is consequently an increase under the head of works and buildings of

10,507*l.*; on roads, streets, and bridges, 41,268*l.*; on colonial store, 8,344*l.* Under the head of Government vessels a sum of 10,000*l.* appears in the returns of 1870 on account of the purchase of the new colonial steamer, 'Serendib'; and under the head of education, exclusive of establishments, there is an increased expenditure of 2,701*l.*, caused by the extension of the grant-in-aid system. These items of increase together amount to 72,820*l.*, which added to 78,488*l.*, increased railway expenditure, gives a total of 151,308*l.*, but the whole increase is reduced by small savings under other heads to 145,497*l.*

7. In addition to the ordinary expenditure of the year, there was a further expenditure on public works of 21,474*l.* charged against the balances of former years and surplus funds.

Assets and Liabilities.

8. The assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1870, amounted to 450,127*l.* The liabilities amounted to 261,719*l.*, showing a balance in favour of the Government of 188,408*l.* In the statement of assets are included a sum of 50,000*l.* on account of arrears of revenue outstanding, believed to be recoverable, and 3,000*l.* on account of surcharges outstanding. Omitting these items from the statement of assets, and deducting from the statement of liabilities the item of 19,027*l.* on account of drafts outstanding, the actual balance of the Colony available for appropriation on the 31st December, 1870, amounted to 154,435*l.* Out of this a sum of 50,000*l.* will be applied to the extension of the railway from Peradeniya to Nawalapitiya, under the authority of the Surplus Funds' Ordinance, No. 5, of 1871; and there still remains an available balance of upwards of 104,000*l.*, so that further provision to the extent of 54,000*l.* can be made during the next session for some of the most urgent works which were not provided for last year, without reducing the reserve below the 50,000*l.* fixed by Her Majesty s Government.

Imports and Exports.

9, The Customs returns show that there was an increase of 686,513*l.* in the value of goods imported, as compared with 1869, and an increase of 422,604*l.* on the exports, the value being—

IMPORTS.

	£
1869 - - -	3,407,094
1870 - - - -	4,093,607

EXPORTS.

	£
1869 - - -	3,331,929
1870 - - - -	3,754,533

10. Adding to these the specie imported and exported, the total

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value of the imports and exports of 1870, as compared with those of the preceding year, stands thus :—

IMPORTS.

	£
1869 - - -	4,635,023
1870 - - - -	4,634,297

EXPORTS.

	£
1869 - - -	3,631,065
1870 - - - -	3,803,730

11. The total value of goods (exclusive of specie) imported and retained in the Colony amounted to 3,724,274*l.*; viz. :—

	£
Imports, exclusive of specie - - -	4,093,607
Deduct imports exported - - - -	369,333
Goods retained - - -	£3,724,274

12. The total value of specie imported and retained in the Island during 1870, amounted to 491,493.

	£
Specie imported - - -	540,690
„ exported - - - -	49,197
Specie retained - -	£491,493

13. The total value therefore of goods and specie imported and retained in the Island during 1870 amounted to 4,215,767*l.*, as follows :—

	£
Goods retained - - - -	3,724,274
Specie „ - - - - -	491,493
Goods and specie retained	£4,215,767

14. The total value of Ceylon produce exported in 1870 amounted to 3,385,200*l.*, viz. :—

	£
Exports, exclusive of specie - - -	3,754,533
Deduct imports exported - - - -	369,333
Ceylon produce - - -	£3,385,200

15. The total value of imports and exports of 1870 amounted to 8,438,027*l.*, as follows :—

	£
Imports - - -	4,634,297
Exports - - -	3,803,730
	£8,438,027

16. The total value of goods and specie imported and retained in the Island, and of the Island produce exported in 1870, was 7,600,967*l.*, viz.:—

	£
Goods and specie imported and retained - -	4,215,767
Ceylon produce exported - - - - -	3,385,200
	£7,600,967

17. The apparent excess in the value of the imports over that of the Island produce exported, as I pointed out last year, is caused by the system of valuation adopted by the Customs Department; the imports and exports being both taken at their value in the market here, the latter representing little more than the cost of production. If the exports were valued at their selling price in the markets to which they are consigned, the excess would no doubt appear on the other side. The returns as they stand would lead to the conclusion, which is obviously incorrect, that for a long series of years the value of the goods imported has been in excess of the value of the exports, and that there has been in addition a large annual importation of specie.

18. I subjoin the following explanatory Report, furnished by the Principal Collector of Customs, in submitting the Customs returns for 1870.

"The foregoing returns show that the value of the imports from all countries was nearly the same for 1870 as for the year 1869, but exceeded that for 1868 by about 231,000*l.* From the details, however, it will be seen that there was some fluctuation in the value from the different countries; for example, in 1870 the imports from the United Kingdom exceeded by 355,000*l.* the value of those in 1869, and by 267,000*l.* those for 1868; from British India there was a falling off in value to the amount of 122,000*l.* in 1870, compared with 1869, while compared with 1868, there was an increase of about 104,000*l.*; from Hong Kong the imports of 1870 were about double the value of those for 1869 and 1868; from Australia the imports of 1870 were valued at 115,000*l.* less than in 1869, and 14,000*l.* less than in 1868; from Suez the values of 1870 were about 123,000*l.* below those of the two preceding years. From foreign countries the value of the imports in each of the three years is nearly the same, except from the United States of America, which is less in 1870 than in both the preceding years, owing probably to the ice famine.

"The total value of the exports for 1870 is about 172,000*l.* in excess of that for 1869, and 17,000*l.* in excess of that for 1868. As with the imports, the details to each country show some fluctuation. To the United Kingdom there is an increase of about 254,000*l.* in 1870 over 1869, and about 113,000*l.* over 1868; to Australia there is a small increase in 1870 over both the preceding years. To France the increase, under the circumstances of the year, is noteworthy; the value of the exports has increased from 24,000*l.* in 1868, and 75,000*l.* in 1869, to 81,000*l.* in 1870; to French India the increase has been from 13,000*l.* and 12,000*l.* in 1868 and 1869 respectively, to 24,000*l.* in 1870.

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"To the United States there is a falling off in 1870 of 14,000*l.* as compared with 1869, and an increase of 11,000 over 1868. To the Mauritius there is an increase in 1870 of about 9,000*l.* compared with 1869, and a falling off of 56,000*l.* compared with 1868.

"As regards specie there was a marked falling off both in its import and export in 1870, compared with the two previous years. The import fell from a million in 1868, and a million and a quarter in 1969, to half a million in 1870; and the export fell from about 300,000*l.* in each of the years 1868 and 1869, to less than 50,000*l.* in 1870. It would appear that 686,538*l.*, 928,793*l.*, and 491,493*l.* was retained in the Colony during each of the three years respectively.

"In 1870 the total trade of Ceylon (imports and exports) exceeded that for 1869 by 171,000*l.*, and that for 1868 by 248,000*l.*

"The shipping accounts show an increase in 1870 both in ships and tonnage over the two preceding years, inwards and outwards.

"No special cause can be assigned for these differences beyond the natural fluctuation of trade. The returns show on the whole a progressive increase in the trade of the Colony."

Enclosure 1.
Enclosure 2.

19. I append to this Despatch a return of exports of coffee, cinnamon, cocoanut-oil and coir for the last ten years; and a return of the total value of imports and exports (including specie and bullion) in the years 1868, 1869, and 1870.

Public Works.

20. The total expenditure on public works during the past year amounted to 277,489*l.*, viz.:—

	£
Government money - - - - - - - -	211,219
Road Ordinance labour and private contribution -	31,117
Establishments - - - - - - - -	35,153
	£277,489

21. In the year 1869, the expenditure was 269,853*l.*, showing an increase of 7,636*l.* in 1870. The expenditure on public works borne on the votes of 1870, as has been shown, was over 50,000*l.* in excess of the expenditure of 1869 from the same source. But in the year 1869 there was a much larger expenditure from unexpended balances and surplus funds, thus reducing the increase in 1870 on the whole transactions of the year to the amount here stated.

22. The expenditure on new roads amounted to 47,614*l.* of which 22,700*l.* was expended on the new road from Badulla to Batticaloa. Considerable progress has been made on this road. About 67 miles have been completed to the end of 1870, and there yet remain about 34 miles to be completed, the total length of the road from Badulla to Eraur being 101 miles. A sum of 6,588*l.* was expended on the road from Akuressa to Morowaka, in the Southern Province. The expenditure in previous years on this road amounted to 10,259*l.*; and a further sum of 3,334*l.* was expended last year on the extension of this road beyond Morowaka. In the Central Province four miles

of the Dik Oya road were completed at a cost of 3,787*l.* The total cost of this road, which is 14 miles in length, is 26,870*l.* A sum of 2,298*l.* was expended on the extension of the Dimbula road, and 1,368*l.* on the Deltota road.

The western terminus of the Urugodawatté road in the Western Province was completed early in the year on an expenditure of 2,001*l.*

23. On the upkeep of roads and canals the expenditure amounted to 118,293*l.*, including 26,778*l.* of Ordinance labour and private contributions.

24. A sum of 8,300*l.* was expended on the construction of new bridges. The following were in progress last year :—

	£
Deduru Oya, on the road from Kurunégala to Puttalam—expenditure since commencement	10,034
Matara Bridge, in Southern Province	8,816
Bentota Bridge „ „ (completed)	5,925
Subsidiary Bridge at Bentota	2,958
Harogama Oya, on the Maturatta road, in the Central Province (completed)	849
Gal Oya, in the new Badulla and Batticaloa road	1,865

25. The repair of bridges involved an outlay of 6,257*l.*

26. The expenditure on new buildings was 19,573*l.* The following were some of the buildings in progress in 1870 :—

	£
WESTERN PROVINCE.	
Additions and improvements of the Welikadé Gaol—expenditure in 1870	4,019
Hospital at Negombo	1,283
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCE.	
Hospital at Kurunégala	1,353
SOUTHERN PROVINCE.	
Extension of Galle Gaol	2,026
EASTERN PROVINCE.	
Offices for the Public Works Department, Batticaloa	285
NORTHERN PROVINCE.	
Extension of Jaffna Gaol (completed)	1,077
Hospital and Medical Officers' Quarters at Mullaittiou and Vavonia Velankulum	1,122
Coolie sheds with Hospitals on the Mannár and Matakachcha road	2,410
CENTRAL PROVINCE.	
Hospital at Matale (completed)	2,204
Powder Magazine at Kandy (completed)	296
Additions to Kandy Gaol	2,304
Gaoler's residence, Kandy (completed)	529

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27. The repairs of buildings cost 13,712*l.*; and a sum of 12,442*l.* was expended on drains, ferry-boats, general service, and miscellaneous services, which include expenses of working the factory, cost of purchase of tools and materials, keep of Government cattle and elephants, recruiting of pioneers, &c.

Irrigation.

28. The total expenditure on irrigation works during the year was 16,144*l.* In the Western Province the principal work executed was the restoration of the Kinchugané Channel in the Saparagamuwa District, which has been completed at a cost of 577*l.* It will benefit about 112 acres, which for want of the means of irrigation have not been cultivated for years.

29. In the North Western Province the following works were undertaken in 1870:—The Deduru Oya works, consisting of a channel to connect the river with three large tanks within a few miles of Chilaw. The head sluice for the channel was completed in 1870 at a cost of 425*l.* The channel requires to be cleared, widened, and deepened. The estimated cost of the work is 1,652*l.*, of which 1,214*l.* were expended in 1870. It will benefit about 1,018 acres. The Director of Public Works reports that on a recent visit paid by him to this place he found that good crops had just been gathered from fields which had not previously been cultivated for ten years in consequence of the uncertainty of water. The restoration of the Tiripitiyawewa, at Madampé, about six miles on the Colombo side of Chilaw, was commenced in 1870, and a sum of 400*l.* expended on it. The estimated cost of the work is 3,000*l.* It will irrigate about 815 acres of land. The construction of a masonry dam at Kudulgalpitiya, across the Kospotu Oya, about eight miles from Kurunégala, with head sluices and a new irrigation channel, has also been commenced, and a sum of 300*l.* expended on it. The probable cost of the work is 1,400*l.*, and it will aid in irrigating between 500 and 600 acres of land on both banks of the river.

30. The following were the works in the Southern Province. Denegamé and Weangwewa tanks near Hakmené in the Mátara District, calculated to irrigate about 2,000 acres of land. The sluices and two of the bunds at Denegamé, and a considerable portion of the large bund were completed in 1870 on an expenditure of 4,247*l.*; but a sudden heavy fall of rain rapidly filled the tank and breached the newly-constructed bund before it had become properly consolidated. The repair of this damage will cost a further sum of 1,779*l.* The Kekenadura tank, near Mátara, was completed in the early part of the year, but the main arterial channel leading from it has not yet been finished. The expenditure to the end of 1870 was 5,582*l.* The total cost of the work will be 6,072*l.* It will irrigate about 2,800 acres of land.

31. A sum of 6,811*l.* was expended on irrigation works in the Eastern Province. The reconstruction of the Rugam tank, which was commenced in 1868, was completed in 1870, at a cost of 8,699*l.* This is one of the largest tanks in the Island, and it is capable of irrigating upwards of 7,000 acres of land. The Peria Kulum tank

is situated near Nidavely, about eight miles north of Trincomalee. Since the completion of the repairs to this tank in 1869, the people requested that channels might be cut from it to the tract of fields watered by the tank. This work was executed last year at a cost of 157*l.* The tank will irrigate about 867 acres of land. The construction of a channel from the Allai Kulum tank to an extensive tract of land at Mutur, in the Trincomalee District, was commenced in 1870, and an expenditure of 1,243*l.* incurred on it. The total cost of this channel will be 1,536*l.* The tank will irrigate about 4,000 acres of land. The construction of a dam over the Sangapady Aar, intended to regulate the supply of water to the fields irrigated by Irrakaman and Amparai tanks, was also commenced in 1870. A sum of 380*l.* was expended on it. The estimated cost of the work is 4,100*l.* It will aid in irrigating 14,000 acres of land. Another work of importance undertaken in the Eastern Province was the restoration of the Devilane tank, which is situated a few miles from Friar's Hood Mountain, in the Batticaloa District. The estimated cost of this work is 3,489*l.*, of which 525*l.* were expended in 1870. It will benefit about 3,000 acres of land.

32. In the Central Province the repairs of the Kuduwewe tank, in the vicinity of Alut Nuwara, in Bentenne, were completed at a cost of 674*l.* The lands to be benefited by this tank include about 222 acres at present under cultivation, and about 150 acres of Crown jungle. The repairs to the Horaborawewa tank, situated about four miles from Alut Nuwara, were also completed in 1870. The total cost of the work was 669*l.* It irrigates about 389 acres of land.

Government Houses at Colombo, Galle, and Kandy.

33. I enclose Reports from the Director of Public Works* on the state of these buildings. The Queen's House at Colombo and the Pavilion at Kandy have been much improved by the alterations recently made to them. The main buildings are in good order; but the out-offices require some repairs. The Colonial Storekeeper reports that the public furniture in the several Queen's Houses has been maintained in good order and suitable condition.

* Not printed.

Surveying Department.

34. The Surveyor-General reports that during the year 1870 3,476 lots, containing in extent 22,897 acres, were disposed of for 50,175*l.*, or at an average rate per acre of 2*l.* 3*s.* 9¾*d.*, exclusive of survey fees, which amounted to 4,859*l.*; that 2,486 lots, in extent 6,663 acres, were settled on certificates, &c., the survey fees for which realized 1,848*l.*; that the fees received for temple land surveys amounted to 165*l.*, and that 177*l.* were received for tracings, &c.

35. The total number of lots alienated from the Crown was 5,962, comprising an extent of 29,560 acres, and the total sum realized by land sales and fees amounted to 57,225*l.*, the total amount of receipts for the previous year being 57,964*l.*

CEYLON.

36. The following are the results of the sales in the different provinces:—

Provinces.	No. of Lots.	Extent.	Purchase Amount.	Average rate per Acre.
		acres.	£	£ s. d.
Western - - - -	2,034	6,533	12,239	1 17 5½
Central - - - -	352	10,872	29,053	2 13 5¼
Southern - - - -	511	1,451	3,112	2 2 10¼
Eastern - - - -	324	2,283	3,168	1 7 8¾
North-Western - -	230	1,659	2,394	1 8 10¼
Northern - - - -	25	96	208	2 2 10¼

37. The expenses of the Department amounted to 25,145*l.*, of which 2,799*l.* were expended on railway extension surveys, meteorological observations, town and temple land surveys, surveys for irrigation purposes, &c., leaving a balance of 22,345*l.* as the expenditure on the ordinary work of the Department.

Railway.

38. The gross receipts of the year amounted to 204,114*l.*, and the working expenses to 73,547*l.*, leaving a profit of 130,567*l.* In 1869 the receipts amounted to 180,965*l.*, and the working expenses to 72,500*l.*, so that whilst the increase in the receipts in 1870 amounted to 23,149*l.*, the increase in the expenditure was only 1,047*l.*

39. The number of passengers carried during the year was 202,620, against 181,720 in 1869; and the tonnage of goods was 156,205, as compared with 134,369 in the previous year.

40. The working of the railway has been entirely satisfactory; and the line has been maintained in good order by the contractor. The iron rails originally laid on the incline have been replaced by steel rails, with perfectly satisfactory results; the wear and tear being now considerably less than formerly.

41. There were a few interruptions to the traffic during the year, caused by the line being washed away near the twenty-seventh mile, from the 3rd to the 5th May, and from the 10th to the 15th November, and by landslips, &c., on the incline from the 18th to the 20th October, and on the 16th November.

42. The railway yielded last year to general revenue a net sum of no less than 62,532*l.*, after paying all expenses, and a contribution of 58,000*l.* to the Sinking Fund as follows:—

		£
Receipts - - - - - - - - - -		204,114
Contribution to Sinking Fund - - -	£58,000	
Working expenses, additional accommodation, loss on remittances to England, and other charges- - - - - - - - -	83,582	
		141,582
Total -		£62,532

Legislation.

CEYLON.

42. The following are the Ordinances enacted in the Session of 1870:—

No. 6 of 1870, "To amend the Ordinance No. 9 of 1869," provides for the payment half-yearly of the amount authorized by the Ordinance No. 6 of 1869 to be paid from the general revenue to meet the interest and principal of the railway debt to the Crown Agents instead of to the trustees of the Sinking Fund; the former to retain in their hands sufficient to meet the half-year's interest on outstanding debentures, and to pay the balance to the trustees.

No. 7 extends the provisions of the Ordinance No. 7 of 1848, relating to palanquin and other carriages let to hire, to the limits of the municipalities in Colombo, Kandy, and Galle, which include a larger area than was comprised within the gravets of those towns to which the provisions of the Ordinance were before limited.

No. 8 extends for another year, till the end of 1871, the provisions of the Ordinance No. 12 of 1869, for regulating the use of traction-engines in Ceylon.

No. 9, amending the Ordinance No. 3 of 1870, supplies an omission in the latter Ordinance by authorizing the addition to the schedule of places in which the Ordinance is to come into operation, of the Sinhalese villages in the district of Mánnar, in the Northern Province, which were inadvertently omitted from it.

No. 10 makes provision for the supplementary contingent charges for the year 1870.

No. 1 of 1871 provides for the issue of warrants for goods warehoused in the Queen's and bonded warehouses, and authorizes their transfer by endorsement. It also makes a few minor amendments in the Customs Ordinance.

No. 2 establishes tolls on certain roads recently completed.

No. 3 establishes the standard for the measurement to be used in the sale of gas to be supplied to municipal towns.

No. 4 authorizes a sum of 150,000*l.* being raised on debentures for the extension of the railway from Peradeniya to Nawalapitiya, and No. 5 provides for the appropriation of a sum of 50,000*l.* for the same purpose from the surplus revenues of past years.

No. 6 makes provision for the contingent services of the year 1871.

No. 7, "To amend the law of property and to relieve trustees," was introduced to remove certain practical difficulties experienced by conveyancers and others in dealing with trustees and trust estates, and it provides means to enable executors to free themselves from responsibility after due notice, and to apply to the Supreme Court for directions in cases of difficulty.

No. 8, "To amend in certain respects the law of mortgage and "hypothec," has two objects in view:—First, to abolish general mortgages; and secondly, to render mortgages of movable property invalid, unless accompanied by actual delivery, or effected by a writing duly registered.

No. 9 makes certain amendments which were found to be necessary in the Tolls Ordinance, No. 14 of 1867.

Population.

44. The total population of all classes of inhabitants for 1870, including the military, is stated in the returns to be 2·128,884, viz.:—

Western Province - - -	664,270
North-Western Province - -	214,699
Southern Province - -	354,339
Eastern „ - - -	97,081
Northern „ - -	426,597
Central „ - - -	371,898
	2,128,884

45. These figures are taken from the Reports furnished by the several Government Agents, who are dependent for the information upon the headmen of their respective Provinces; but, as has before been remarked, they cannot be relied upon. Since the compilation of these returns a census of the population of this Island has been taken under the provisions of the Ordinance No. 5 of 1868; and I enclose a copy of an interesting letter from the Registrar-General, giving the general results of the census. The total population of the whole Island, according to the census, is 2,405,287; showing an increase of about 300,000 over former estimates, and of 277,603 as compared with the returns in the Blue Book for 1870. The increase appears in all the Provinces, excepting the Northern, in which there is a decrease of 86,428.

Enclosure 3.

46. The following is the population of the several Provinces, according to the census:—

Western Province - - -	776,930
North-Western Province - -	276,033
Southern Province - -	399,452
Eastern „ - - -	118,077
Northern „ - -	340,169
Central „ - - -	494,626
	2,405,287

Public Health.

47. The principal civil medical officer reports there has been no epidemic of a serious nature during the year 1870, and that the public health has been good.

48. 558 cases of cholera were reported during the year, of which 319 proved fatal, being at the rate of 57·16 per cent. of attack. The disease first made its appearance in a village near Galle, in the Southern Province, in May, 1870, and it extended itself over the Island without showing any tendency to spread epidemically.

49. In my Despatch, No. 210, of the 16th September last, forwarding the Blue Book for 1869, I stated that only a single case of small-pox remained in Galle at the close of that year. This case

recovered, and the disease disappeared for a short period from the Island. It again made its appearance in April in Colombo, and afterwards spread to other parts of the Island, assuming an epidemic character in Colombo towards the close of the year. The total number of cases reported in the Island was 367, of which 75 died.

50. The hospital returns submitted by the principal civil medical officer show an increase of 498 in the number of indoor patients over those of 1869; the numbers admitted being 7,890 in 1869, and 8,388 in 1870. The number of deaths was 941 in 1870 against 1,077 in 1869; the rate of mortality being 11·21 in the former year, and 13·65 in the latter.

Education.

51. The number of Government schools in operation at the close of the year 1870 was 156; the number of pupils on the list was 8,726; and the average daily attendance during the year was 6,825, showing a net increase during the year of 36 schools and 1,570 pupils, with an increase of 1,044 in the average daily attendance.

52. The expenditure on account of education in 1870 amounted to 20,554*l.*, showing an increase of 4,087*l.* as compared with that of 1869, which was 16,467*l.*

53. The receipts in 1870 under the head of fees, &c., amounted to 2,628*l.*, being an increase of 159*l.* as compared with the sum received in 1869.

54. Grants in aid under the new scheme to the amount of 3,435*l.* were given to 223 missionary and private schools, after an examination of the pupils. The number of pupils examined was 7,221, representing an average daily attendance of nearly 10,000. Of the number examined 4,925 were in vernacular schools, 908 in Anglo-vernacular schools, and 1,388 in English teaching schools.

55. The returns from the different missionary bodies show an increase of 33 in the number of schools supported by them, and of 4,850 in the number of pupils attending them. The following is an abstract of these schools:—

	No. of Schools.	No. of Pupils.
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel	121	5,362
Church Missionary Society	95	4,195
Wesleyan „ „	104	4,724
Presbyterians	1	23
Baptist Missionary Society	19	537
American „ „	67	3,006
Roman Catholic „	123	7,246
	530	25,093

56. The numbers in 1869 were 497 schools and 20,243 pupils.

57. The number of private schools in 1870 was 279, with an attendance of 6,838, showing a decrease as compared with 1869 of six schools, and an increase of 396 in the number of pupils.

General Observations.

Enclosure 4.

58. I annex to this Despatch a Table giving a statistical view of the progress of Ceylon for the years 1821 to 1870 inclusive. This return is interesting and instructive, as it shows that the liberal policy which has been pursued here for many years past is now bearing fruit in the rapid and solid improvement of the Colony. Not only has the whole industrial enterprise of the Island been lately relieved of the burden of the export duties, but vast sums have been expended for years past on works calculated to facilitate and cheapen the means of communication and to increase the local production of food. The result is now apparent in the extension of agriculture and trade, and the improvement of the public revenue.

59. As illustrating this I may point to the statistical returns for the last three years, as compared with those for a corresponding period prior to 31st December, 1860, which show the following results. The imports and exports have increased in average annual value from 5,958,248*l.* in the years 1858–59–60, to 8,298,005*l.* in the years 1868–69–70, being an increase of nearly 40 per cent. The annual average tonnage of shipping entered and cleared from the several ports of the Island has increased in like manner from 829,263 tons in the years 1858–59–60, to 1,294,795 tons in the years 1868–69–70, being an increase of over 56 per cent. The estimated number of acres in cultivation has increased from 927,581 acres in 1860 to 1,526,583 acres in 1870, being an increase of 64 per cent. The staple exports of the Island consist of coffee, cinnamon, arecanuts, tobacco, plumbago, and the produce of the cocoanut palm, comprising oil, arrack, fibre, rope, and other manufactured articles. A comparison of the average export of these articles for the years 1858–59–60 with that for 1868–69–70 shows the following results. Coffee has increased from 584,806 cwt. to 993,478 cwt., being an increase of nearly 70 per cent. The annual value of the produce of the cocoanut exported has increased from 194,235*l.* to 232,747*l.*, being an increase of about 20 per cent. The export of cinnamon has increased from 768,420 lbs. to 2,311,059 lbs., being an increase of 300 per cent. The export of arecanuts has increased from 70,571 cwt. to 79,359 cwt., being an increase of 11 per cent. Tobacco has increased from 20,224 cwt. to 34,921 cwt., being an increase of 72 per cent., and the export of plumbago has increased from 37,534 cwt. to 150,824 cwt., being an increase of 400 per cent. The improvement in the revenue has been equally marked. In 1860 it amounted to 767,100*l.*, which was in excess of the revenue of any previous year. Since then no new taxes have been imposed, and about 100,000*l.* a year of the revenue then existing has been relinquished by the abolition of the export duties and the transfer to the municipalities of Colombo, Kandy, and Galle of taxes amounting to about 40,000*l.* a year. Notwithstanding the abandonment of these items, the revenue of 1870 amounted to 1,091,606*l.*, being an increase as compared with that of 1860 of over 42 per cent. Of this increase about one-third is due to the excess of the railway receipts over the items of revenue relinquished, and the remainder is attributable to the general improve-

ment of all the principal sources of revenue. The Colony has now, I consider, a well-secured revenue of about 1,100,000*l.* a year. It defrays the whole of its own civil and military expenditure, which amounts, including the upkeep of public works and the contribution to the Railway Sinking Fund, to nearly 980,000*l.*, leaving a net surplus of about 120,000*l.* a year available for new roads, bridges, and canals; for railway extension, for irrigation works, for harbour improvements, for the establishment of village schools throughout the Island, and for other similar measures necessary to develop still further the vast natural resources of the country, and to advance the social and material condition of the people.

60. It is very gratifying to me, at the close of my administration of this Government, to be enabled thus to lay before your Lordship proofs of the sound and flourishing condition of the finances, and of the growing prosperity of every branch of industry. The people are loyal, thriving, and contented. The peasantry especially are making rapid progress in wealth and comfort, and appear to appreciate very generally the substantial advantages which they derive from living under British rule.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

Decennial Return of Exports of Coffee, Cinnamon, Cocoanut-oil, and Coir, the Produce of the Colony.

Years.	Coffee.			Cinnamon.			Cocoanut-oil.			Coir.			Total Amount of Customs Revenue from the foregoing Exports.
	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	
	cwt.	£	£	£	£	£	gals.	£	£	cwt.	£	£	£
1861	648,026	1,656,733	32,404	845,218	42,261	845	1,040,428	104,043	2,613	43,168	31,883	540	36,400
1862	605,178	1,445,284	30,259	875,475	43,774	876	1,429,531	142,953	3,591	46,595	37,648	583	35,309
1863	828,589	2,126,222	41,429	734,038	36,702	734	1,878,585	187,858	4,718	51,785	39,103	647	47,528
1864	671,164	1,744,793	33,559	776,675	38,833	775	2,249,402	224,948	5,649	36,313	27,386	454	40,437
1865	927,440	2,343,532	46,373	850,973	42,549	852	1,176,784	120,678	2,955	41,378	31,637	516	50,696
1866	897,624	2,286,880	44,882	890,484	44,524	890	1,042,853	104,400	2,619	46,687	33,035	594	48,985
1867	943,592	2,430,536	47,180	1,017,750	50,889	1,018	1,345,485	134,548	3,379	49,675	34,446	621	52,198
1868	1,007,338	2,563,999	50,367	2,056,509	102,825	2,057	1,423,853	142,385	3,576	68,804	46,607	861	56,861
1869	919,065	2,391,980	45,954	2,684,367	134,269	2,685	1,292,065	129,206	3,244	64,998	43,013	812	52,695
1870	1,054,029	2,753,004	Free	2,191,274	109,558	Free	1,688,199	168,819	Free	61,666	43,430	Free	Free
Total	8,502,043	21,742,963	372,405	12,922,763	646,182	10,732	14,567,185	1,459,838	32,344	511,069	368,188	5,628	421,109

Customs, Colombo, May 26, 1871.

(Signed) T. B. Stephen,
Principal Collector.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

TOTAL VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS (including SPECIE and BULLION) from each Country in each of the Years 1868, 1869, and 1870.

Countries.	Imports.			Exports.		
	1868.	1869.	1870.	1868.	1869.	1870.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	1,264,470 2 2	1,175,757 16 11	1,531,491 9 5	2,793,312 10 10	2,652,781 1 7	2,907,145 17 6
British Possessions in India	2,454,189 8 4	2,681,779 18 2	2,559,087 11 3	788,442 10 9	752,907 7 10	662,333 3 11
Mauritius	6,941 1 0	7,308 15 11	38 0 0	70,240 13 10	4,186 18 1	13,265 15 2
Aden	439 16 0	61 3 6	28 0 0	1,511 2 4	10,075 16 9	—
Hong Kong	14,140 14 6	13,501 0 1	28,841 7 9	1,028 19 0	903 13 11	6,853 9 3
Australia	266,576 0 0	366,710 16 4	251,613 12 10	39,551 3 9	44,413 5 10	49,232 18 11
Cape of Good Hope	1,281 4 9	11 4 10	—	—	—	191 19 0
France	6,574 7 6	233 10 3	726 16 8	24,501 0 8	75,467 15 7	81,263 4 10
Suez	181,872 19 10	179,161 14 2	56,434 4 8	6,155 19 9	8,674 4 2	2,603 12 6
French Possessions in India	172,959 18 7	164,948 5 1	168,148 5 1	13,252 4 9	12,350 17 2	24,214 12 1
Maldive Islands	26,914 1 2	30,103 12 6	33,536 4 1	6,578 13 5	4,773 16 10	5,709 3 6
United States of America	6,817 12 8	13,475 2 7	4,351 14 4	37,431 6 2	62,928 4 11	48,824 16 6
Dutch Possessions in India	—	—	—	910 0 0	554 6 10	2,092 2 8
China	—	—	—	3,805 12 0	1,047 14 9	—
Muscat	—	1,970 7 3	—	—	—	—
Total £	4,403,177 6 6	4,635,023 7 7	4,634,297 6 1	3,786,721 17 3	3,631,065 4 3	3,803,730 15 10

Customs, Colombo, May 26, 1871.

(Signed) T. B. STEPHEN,
Principal Collector.

CEYLON.
Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

CEYLON.

Enclosure 3 in No. 1.

Enclosure 3 in No. 1.

EXTRACT from the REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT, dated REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S OFFICE, COLOMBO, JULY 26, 1871.

Herewith I have the honour to lay before his Excellency the Governor the general totals of population, as shown by the Census taken on the 26–7th March last.

The total for the whole Island of 2,405,287 would have doubtless been received by the public as most satisfactory, showing as it does an increase of about 300,000 over all former estimates. Unfortunately, however, I had been led (by the great excess over previous calculations of the results of the Census in five of the Provinces) to allow my hopes that we should approach the 3,000,000 to become generally known, and thereby have given grounds for unnecessary disappointment.

On receipt of the Northern Province Schedules (which had been for weeks detained by stormy weather and contrary winds), I was greatly disappointed at finding that, there alone, instead of an increase, a decrease on former estimates of 86,149 was the result.

I at once wrote to the Government Agent inviting his attention to this startling falling off in the numbers of the population, and am awaiting his reply before making further comment.

It gives me great satisfaction to be able to state that, in all other respects, the whole proceedings connected with the Census have been very successful.

I am quite satisfied that the returns are very accurate; of course mistakes and omissions have been made, but, in comparison with the magnitude of the whole work, they are too trifling to be noticed.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

Enlosure 4 in No. 1.

STATISTICAL VIEW of the PROGRESS of CEYLON, from the Year 1861 to 1870, inclusive.

Year.	Area in square miles.	Population.	Military.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Schools.		Estimated Number of Acres under Cultivation.	Land Sales.		Revenue.	Expenditure.
							Schools.	Number of Scholars.		Extent.	Amount realized, including fees.		
									acres.	acres.	£	£	£
1861	24,700	1,919,487	3,290	46,751	18,310	37,480	1,111	27,914	810,153	28,329	44,166	751,997	[a] 635,230
1862		2,079,881	3,138	48,602	19,518	33,652	1,237	25,408	1,567,974	25,302	45,300	759,135	[b] 626,654
1863		2,342,098	2,946	48,589	23,581	30,024	920	31,528	1,575,337	32,567	72,811	952,790	[c] 738,194
1864		2,051,109	2,981	45,713	18,542	39,997	907	29,065	1,580,078	34,122	76,567	867,728	[d] 843,292
1865		2,049,728	2,738	45,056	16,835	30,328	798	26,763	1,651,963	41,150	68,276	978,492	[e] 838,193
1866		2,088,027	2,235	48,223	18,921	39,125	698	25,147	1,397,008	45,546	72,021	962,873	[f] 917,669
1867		2,093,777	2,410	42,788	24,433	44,224	874	33,379	1,550,664	44,019	45,257	969,936	[g] 927,932
1868		2,081,395	2,467	55,058	14,346	56,138	716	26,807	1,532,710	24,492	38,514	925,266	[h] 974,950
1869		2,105,288	2,408	54,281	17,205	46,801	915	34,617	1,424,069	35,823	57,964	946,495	[i] 881,373
1870		2,128,884	2,116	63,111	17,150	40,230	978	41,490	1,526,583	29,560	57,296	1,091,606	[j] 1,026,871

Year.	Total Tonnage of Shipping Entered and Cleared.					Imports.			Exports.		
	From and to United Kingdom.	From and to other Countries.	Total.	British belonging to	Foreign.	From the United Kingdom.	From other Countries.	Total.	To the United Kingdom.	To other Countries.	Total.
				United Kingdom. The Colonies.							
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons. tons.	tons.	£	£	£	£	£	£
1861	73,866	763,355	837,221	364,640 394,425	78,156	801,491	2,862,259	3,663,750	1,724,740	981,467	2,706,207
1862	92,911	796,081	888,992	462,295 361,566	65,131	836,319	3,406,820	4,243,139	1,703,574	790,546	2,494,120
1863	125,672	942,642	1,068,314	517,158 403,039	148,117	1,011,995	4,421,811	5,433,806	2,407,578	1,179,656	3,587,234
1864	109,839	960,556	1,070,395	513,153 427,926	129,316	1,651,587	3,875,377	5,526,964	2,015,326	1,096,942	3,112,268
1865	122,842	1,027,998	1,150,840	605,575 419,041	126,224	904,255	4,117,924	5,022,179	2,420,056	1,145,101	3,565,157
1866	115,456	1,066,869	1,182,325	578,576 454,352	149,397	1,390,686	3,570,375	4,961,061	2,385,126	1,201,327	3,586,453
1867	126,754	1,070,011	1,196,765	579,090 476,606	141,069	1,350,312	3,154,027	4,504,339	2,556,188	974,036	3,530,224
1868	163,999	1,082,615	1,246,614	656,812 414,544	175,258	1,264,470	3,138,707	4,403,177	2,793,313	993,409	3,786,722
1869	112,971	1,100,855	1,213,826	697,987 369,204	146,635	1,175,758	3,459,265	4,635,023	2,652,781	978,284	3,631,065
1870	154,963	1,268,982	1,423,945	779,777 445,565	198,603	1,531,491	3,102,806	4,634,297	2,907,146	896,585	3,803,731

[a] This is exclusive of an expenditure of £19,759, charged against the Surplus Revenue of former years.
[b] Ditto £3,484, ditto. [c] Ditto £120, ditto. [d] Ditto £250,000, ditto.
[e] This is exclusive of an expenditure of £28,162, charged on Balances.
[f] This is exclusive of an expenditure of £40,323, charged on Balances.
[g] Ditto £96,393, charged against Surplus Funds and against Balances.
[h] Ditto £79,021, ditto ditto. [i] Ditto £79,431, ditto ditto.
[j] Ditto £21,475, ditto ditto.

NOTE.—The figures under the heads Population, Births, Marriages, Deaths, Schools, Cultivation, are only approximative.

HONG KONG.

Hong Kong.

No. 2.

No. 2.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Whitfeild to The Earl of Kimberley.

(No. 79.)

My Lord, Government House, Hong Kong, June 8, 1871.

I have the honour to transmit, for the information of your Lordship, the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1870.

Enclosure No. 1.

I also enclose with it a copy of the Report making references thereto, which has been made to me by the Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure No. 2. June 6, 1871.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) H. W. Whitfeild, Major-Gen. and Lieut.-Governor.

(No. 278.)

Sir, Colonial Secretary's Office, June 6, 1871.

I have the honour to submit the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1870, and to draw your Excellency's attention to the following remarks thereon.

Revenue.

2. The receipts under the head of revenue were, it will be perceived, in close approximation to those of the preceding year, having amounted in the whole to 190,673*l.* 12*s.* 1½*d.*, as against 192,464*l.* 17*s.* 2½*d.* in 1869.

Under some heads, as for instance the Mint, and reimbursements, the decrease is considerable; but the account is balanced by increased receipts for stamps and police and lighting rates, which is all the more satisfactory, considering that the sale of the Mint machinery, and an allowance from the Special Fund for the construction and maintenance of the 'Victoria' and 'Blanche' steam-vessels gave extraordinary additions to the receipts of 1869.

Expenditure.

3. In respect to the expenditure of 1870, there was a decrease of 8,713*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* as compared with that of 1869, the charges of the former year having amounted to 183,595*l.* 11*s.* 1½*d.*, whilst those of the latter reached 192,309*l.* 1*s.* 7½*d.*

But, for the purchase of Mr. Duddell's lots, which involved an outlay of 8,600*l.*, the contrast would have been still more favourable to 1870. At the same time, however, the reception of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, and the purchase of fire-engines in 1869, gave exceptional increase to the expenditure of that year.

Public Works.

4. The public works and roads of the Colony have involved an outlay of no less a sum than 33,224*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*; but it is satisfactory to know that the work which has absorbed nearly one half of this sum, viz. the Pok-fo-lum reservoir, is verging on completion, and bids fair to repay the community most amply for the heavy outlay which has been incurred. The other undertakings which have drawn prominently on the resources of the Colony are the Court House, telegraphic communication around the Island, accommodation for the gaol staff, and repair of the sea-wall.

Population.

5. The day fixed upon for taking the Census of the British and foreign community, viz. the 2nd of April, 1871, not being a convenient period for collecting statistics of the Chinese population, the Census regarding them was taken, with the assent of the Secretary of State, in October, 1870. The returns are not, however, to be altogether relied upon, as so prone are the Chinese, like other Asiatics, to suspect the authorities to have some covert design, that they fail in many cases to comply with the requirements of the law. Such as they are, the returns show an increase since 1869, in the British and foreign population, of 447, and in the Chinese of 1,437; the respective numbers, inclusive of the military and naval establishments, being as follows:—

Europeans and Americans	5,931
Indians and others of mixed blood	2,823
Chinese	115,444
Total	124,198

Emigration.

6. Emigration under contract to foreign countries having been prohibited by Her Majesty's Government, and considerable opposition having been given in the United States to the introduction of Chinese labourers, the numbers leaving this port have been reduced by 5,293 as compared with the preceding year.

The emigration of Chinese through Hong Kong has, however, been considerable, viz:—

To the United States	11,024
To the Australian colonies	775
To Callao	381
To Bangkok	381
To Labuan	70
To Honolulu	361
Total	12,992

HONG KONG.

Imports, Exports, and Shipping.

7. No reliable statistics can be looked for at a free port in reference to imports and exports, but that the general trade of the Colony, both foreign and native, is in a very healthy state may be reasonably inferred from the increase of the number of ships over 1869 by 2,433, with a carrying capacity of 311,028 tons.

The Harbour Master attributes the great increase in the number of junks to less zealous performance of their duties by the officers in charge of the adjacent Custom Houses; but his information in such respect is not to be altogether relied upon, as although there may have been some slight relaxation of that close vigilance which was observed on their first establishment, still there is no doubt that the great increase in the number of junks is owing to the system adopted by the superior officials of the Chinese Customs at Canton of selling duty chops at reduced rates on goods carried in native bottoms.

In consequence, the Canton steamers carry but little goods, as being unable to compete with the reduced rates of the junks for freight and duty.

Grants of Land.

8. There has been but one grant of land during the year, viz. six acres for 999 years, at a yearly rental of 47*l*. There is no immediate prospect of any further extension of occupancies at Kowloon. On the contrary, there is rather a disposition on the part of the lot-holders to surrender their leases than add to their land investments.

Gaols and Prisoners.

9. The total number of prisoners convicted at the Supreme Court has increased from 75 in 1869, to 80 in 1870; and the convictions in the Police Magistrates' Court have advanced from 4,917 to 6,311.

I mentioned in the Report of last year that to the system of deportation, as carried out by Sir R. G. MacDonnell, was greatly owing the reduced number of prisoners under confinement in the gaol, and I also expressed an opinion that any relaxation of the system would result in as marked increase as had been the decrease.

Results have proved the accuracy of my conclusions, as I find that up to the 1st of June, 1870, the average number of prisoners in jail was 350, and that on the removal after that date of the practice of branding prisoners on deportation and flogging them when returning, the numbers went up to an average of 500.

Resorted to as is Hong Kong by the worst of characters from Canton and the main, it is greatly to be regretted that precautions so salutary and deterrent cannot be permanently adopted.

It is satisfactory to note that notwithstanding that the prison wards have been thronged in excess of 1869, there has been but little sickness, whilst the mortality was 25 per cent. less.

Hospitals.

10. The Colonial Surgeon has again drawn attention to the unfitness of the Civil Hospital for the purpose to which it is being devoted, as well in respect to size as to construction.

1,296 cases, he observes, have been treated in a structure which is neither large enough for nor adapted to the treatment of one-third of that number, and under such circumstances it seems that no further time should be lost in the erection of a new hospital. I urge it now especially in consequence of the approaching completion of the Pok-foo-lum reservoir, and the consequent greater ability of the Colony to bear the outlay.

Education.

11. The report made by Mr. Stewart of the state of the schools under his supervision is very interesting, the central school in Hong Kong having maintained its ground in respect to numbers, notwithstanding the apprehensions entertained that commercial depression, and the consequent inability of many to obtain mercantile employment, might cause them to withdraw.

It may well be inferred from this, as Mr. Stewart very justly observes, that education is being appreciated by the parents and boys as much for its own sake as for the mere making of money, for which it might have been considered a preparation. Indeed, it is scarcely possible to arrive at any other conclusion, looking at the ten subjects in which the first or highest class was examined, viz. algebra, arithmetic, chemistry, dictation, English composition, geography, geometry, grammar, translation from Chinese into English, and from English into Chinese.

The village schools, which are free schools entirely supported by the Government, are twelve in number, and the schools in receipt of grants in aid are now eleven in number, five having been added during the year. These latter schools differ from the ordinary village schools simply in this, that the villagers provide the school-house and select the master, who gets one half of his salary in kind from the parents and the other half, amounting to $60, from the Government. The system is not approved by Mr. Stewart for the reasons given by him at length.

The number of scholars taught in the Government schools during 1870 was as follows:—boys, 1,191; girls, 111, and the cost incurred was $14,232·01, or 2,965*l.* 0½*d.*

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

HONG KONG.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the REVENUE and EXPENDITURE

REVENUE.	1869.		1870.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	$	c.	$	c.	$	c.	$	c.
Land Revenue	132,811	68	130,519	72	—		2,291	96
Rents, exclusive of Lands	50,038	47	50,810	19	771	72	—	
Licences:—								
Spirit Retailers	31,590	65	30,872	22	—		718	43
Pawnbrokers	7,700	00	8,050	00	350	00	—	
Auctioneers	4,200	00	3,900	00	—		300	00
Tenements for Emigrants	176	95	250	55	73	60	—	
Emigration Brokers	2,400	00	1,600	00	—		800	00
Billiard Tables and Bowling Alleys	1,275	00	1,200	00	—		75	00
Opium Monopoly	108,660	00	113,080	00	4,420	00	—	
Boarding Houses	400	00	352	00	—		48	00
Marriage	75	00	70	00	—		5	00
Chinese Undertakers	70	00	70	00	—		—	
Money Changers	675	00	590	00	—		85	00
Marine Store Dealers	2,625	00	2,965	00	340	00	—	
Spirit Distillers	—		100	00	100	00	—	
Taxes:—								
Stamps	95,812	51	107,848	21	12,035	70	—	
Police, Lighting, Water, and Fire Brigade Rates	178,717	09	185,188	57	6,471	48	—	
Postage	64,854	28	63,337	33	—		1,516	95
Fines of Courts	10,639	70	9,654	82	—		984	88
Forfeitures of Courts	1,433	14	262	21	—		1,170	93
Fees of Courts	4,645	28	3,325	41	—		1,319	87
Fees of Office:—								
On Cemetery Burials	938	00	892	75	—		45	25
Licences for Junks, &c.	8,238	00	6,909	00	—		1,329	00
Passes ,,	7,835	75	8,810	25	974	50	—	
Registry of Boats	3,675	84	3,741	45	65	61	—	
Registry of Cargo Boats and Crews	1,357	41	1,376	69	19	28	—	
Registry of Hawkers	1,801	25	1,690	25	—		111	00
Cargo Boats' Certificates	195	00	225	00	30	00	—	
Registration of Householders	2,238	50	1,643	25	—		595	25
Registration of Servants, &c.	298	00	269	75	—		28	25
Official Signatures	88	00	235	00	147	00	—	
Registration of Deeds	1,633	50	1,068	50	—		565	00
Shipping Seamen	7,113	00	6,892	00	—		221	00
Examination of Masters and Mates	610	00	430	00	—		180	00
Colonial Registers	50	00	30	00	—		20	00
Merchant Shipping Act	613	00	531	00	—		82	00
Registry of Chairs, Carriages, &c.	1,419	60	1,641	60	222	00	—	
Registration of Companies	108	00	1,738	50	1,630	50	—	
Medical Fees on Examination of Emigrants	4,707	25	3,783	00	—		924	25
Sale of Government Property	521	75	642	11	120	36	—	
Mint	60,102	71	40,000	00	—		20,102	71
Reimbursements	87,579	43	68,999	73	—		18,579	70
Miscellaneous Receipts	13,965	09	12,144	69	—		1,820	40
Interest	8,958	08	26,539	42	17,581	34	—	
Special Receipts, under Ordinance No. 10 of 1867	10,806	10	10,696	20	—		109	90
	$ 923,653	01	914,976	37	45,353	09	54,029	73
Deduct Increase							$45,353	09
Net Decrease							$8,676	64

Colonial Treasury, Victoria, Hong Kong,
29th March, 1871.

A. F. ALVES,
Accountant.

of the COLONY of HONG KONG in 1869 and 1870. HONG KONG.

EXPENDITURE.	1869.		1870.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	$	c.	$	c.	$	c.	$	c.
Civil Departments :—								
Governor - - -	25,553	77	25,812	93	259	16	—	
Colonial Secretary - -	27,557	47	25,378	41	—		2,179	06
Colonial Treasurer - -	15,322	81	11,787	98	—		3,534	83
Auditor-General - -	12,091	66	19,096	39	7,004	73	—	
Clerk of Councils - -	1,031	00	960	00	—		71	00
Surveyor-General - -	29,493	08	32,206	68	2,713	60	—	
Master of the Mint - -	7,433	81	—		—		7,433	81
Postmaster-General - -	40,210	04	41,603	80	1,393	76	—	
Registrar-General - -	14,088	58	14,986	63	898	05	—	
Harbour Master - -	37,035	86	37,406	65	370	79	—	
Collector of Stamp Revenue -	3,880	55	3,844	90	—		35	65
Judicial Departments - -	39,324	46	40,000	56	676	10	—	
Registrar of Companies' Department - - - -	192	00	192	00	—		—	
Ecclesiastical Department -	4,950	00	4,974	00	24	00	—	
Educational Department - -	11,759	35	13,972	68	2,213	33	—	
Medical Department - -	24,781	53	29,315	22	4,533	69	—	
Police Magistrates' Department - - - -	17,782	60	16,300	40	—		1,482	20
Police Department - -	175,101	60	157,506	54	—		17,595	06
Gaol Department - - -	39,558	73	40,964	31	1,405	58	—	
Fire Brigade Department -	16,491	05	6,251	95	—		10,239	10
Pensions, Retired Allowances, and Gratuities - - -	16,623	99	18,260	95	1,636	96	—	
Charitable Allowances -	926	84	970	26	43	42	—	
Transport - - - -	2,516	90	5,892	75	3,375	85	—	
Works and Buildings - -	165,145	02	138,993	62	—		26,151	40
Roads, Streets, and Bridges -	25,941	11	20,250	83	—		5,690	28
Miscellaneous Services -	62,240	51	37,258	61	—		24,981	90
Land and Houses Purchased -	—		39,314	29	39,314	29	—	
Special Expenses - - -	5,000	00	—		—		5,000	00
Military Contribution -	90,819	14	93,720	76	2,901	62	—	
$	912,853	46	877,224	10	68,764	93	104,394	29
Deduct Increase - - - - -							$68,764	93
Net Decrease- - - - - -							$35,629	36

Examined, J. GARDINER AUSTIN, *Auditor-General.*

CECIL C. SMITH, *Acting Colonial Treasurer.*

REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the COLONY of HONG KONG during the Year ended 31st December, 1870.

REVENUE.			Amount.		EXPENDITURE.	Amount.	
			$	c.		$	c.
Land Revenue			130,519	72	Civil Departments :—		
Rents, exclusive of Lands			50,810	19	Governor	25,812	93
Licences :—	$	c.			Colonial Secretary	25,378	41
Spirit Retailers	30,872	22			Colonial Treasurer	11,787	98
Pawnbrokers	8,050	00			Auditor-General	19,096	39
Auctioneers	3,900	00			Clerk of Councils	960	00
Tenements for Emigrants	250	55			Surveyor-General	32,206	68
Emigration Brokers	1,600	00			Postmaster-General	41,603	80
Billiard Tables and Bowling Alleys	1,200	00			Registrar-General	14,986	63
Opium Monopoly	113,080	00			Harbour Master	37,406	65
Boarding Houses	352	00			Collector of Stamp Revenue	3,844	90
Marriage	70	00			Judicial Departments	40,000	56
Chinese Undertakers	70	00			Registrar of Companies' Department	192	00
Money Changers	590	00			Ecclesiastical Department	4,974	00
Marine Store Dealers	2,965	00			Educational Department	13,972	68
Spirit Distillers	100	00			Medical Department	29,315	22
Taxes :—			163,099	77	Police Magistrates' Department	16,300	40
Stamps	107,848	21			Police Department	157,506	54
Police, Lighting, Water, and Fire Brigade Rates	185,188	57			Gaol Department	40,964	31
			293,036	78	Fire Brigade Department	6,251	95
Postage			63,337	33	Pensions, Retired Allowances, and Gratuities	18,260	95
Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Courts :—					Charitable Allowances	970	26
Fines	9,654	82			Transport	5,892	75
Forfeitures	262	21			Works and Buildings	138,993	62
Fees	3,325	41			Roads, Streets, and Bridges	20,250	83
Fees of Office :—			13,242	44	Miscellaneous Services	37,258	61
On Cemetery Burials	892	75			Land and Houses Purchased	39,314	29
Licences for Junks, &c.	6,909	00			Military Contribution	93,720	76
Passes ,,	8,810	25					
Registry of Boats	3,741	45					
Registry of Cargo Boats and Crews	1,376	69					
Registry of Hawkers	1,690	25					
Cargo Boats' Certificates	225	00					
Registration of Householders	1,643	25					
Registration of Servants, &c.	269	75					
Official Signatures	235	00					
Registration of Deeds	1,068	50					
Shipping Seamen	6,892	00					
Examination of Masters and Mates	430	00					
Colonial Registers	30	00					
Merchant Shipping Act	531	00					
Registry of Chairs, Carriages, &c.	1,641	60					
Registration of Companies	1,738	50					
Medical Fees on Examination of Emigrants	3,783	00					
			41,907	99			
Sale of Government Property			642	11			
Mint			40,000	00			
Reimbursements			68,999	73			
Miscellaneous Receipts			12,144	69			
Interest			*26,539	42			
Special Receipts, under Ordinance No. 10 of 1867			10,696	20			
Total		$	914,976	37	Total	$ 877,224	10

* The sum of $26,539,42 received for interest is inclusive of the interest payable on Special Fund Deposits, which will have to be transferred to that account.

A. F. ALVES, *Accountant.* Examined, J. GARDINER AUSTIN, *Auditor-General.* CECIL C. SMITH, *Acting Colonial Treasurer.*

Colonial Treasury, Victoria, Hong Kong, 29th March, 1871.

(No. 16.) HONG KONG.

SIR, General Post Office, Hong Kong, March 17, 1871.

I have the honour to lay before you, for presentation to his Excellency Major-General Whitfeild, Lieutenant-Governor, the Eleventh Annual Report on the Post Office, being that for the year 1870.

2. The principal changes of interest which have taken place in the postal service during the year are as follows, viz. :—

3. The two marine sorters previously employed on the line between Hong Kong and Shanghae have been withdrawn for general duty in this office, and arrangements have been made for completely sorting the mails for Shanghae before they leave Hong Kong. By this change of system the residents of Shanghae obtain the advantage of having their letters, by both the English and French packets, delivered immediately on arrival, and this without extra charge, the alteration having been made with a view to discourage the transmission of letters outside the mails. Similar arrangements have been made at the British Post Office at Shanghae to enable the letters for Hong Kong to be dispatched ready for immediate delivery on their reaching this office. The Imperial Postmaster-General has withdrawn the officers employed in sorting the homeward Indian, China, and Australian mails, on board the Mediterranean packets ; the mails from Hong Kong are now therefore subdivided in this office, so as to facilitate the arrangements made for sorting them on their arrival in England.

4. The Director-General of the Posts in France has consented to a proposal to send closed mails by the French packets between this office and the British Post Office at Shanghae and Yokohama, instead of forwarding the correspondence for the community at those Settlements in the mails for the French Post Offices, thereby accelerating the delivery of the local correspondence.

5. Sanction having been obtained to the mails from London for Shanghae and Yokohama which are brought to Hong Kong by French packet being delivered over to this office, advantage has been taken of one or two opportunities of sending the mails forward to Shanghae earlier than they would have reached their destination by the branch French packet for Shanghae.

6. Arrangements have been completed under which correspondence brought from Batavia by French packet to Singapore is sent to this office by the first packet leaving for Hong Kong, instead of, as formerly, awaiting the departure of the next French packet to China, which involved, in some cases, a delay of twenty days.

7. Arrangements have been completed under which British closed mails between Hong Kong and Nagasaki, and between Hong Kong and Hiogo, are conveyed from Shanghae and Yokohama respectively by means of the United States' mail packets ; the demand made by the United States' Post Office for their conveyance has however necessitated a small extra rate of postage on correspondence thus conveyed, but the advantages gained for the public by these arrangements are manifest.

8. The hour of dispatch of the homeward British mail packets

HONG KONG.

from Hong Kong has been advantageously changed from 9 A.M. to noon, making it conform to the hour of dispatch of the French packets.

9. With a view to averting the inconvenience which has sometimes been experienced here on account of the late arrival of the British mail packets from Yokohama, their departure from Yokohama has been made one day earlier than formerly.

10. The scale of progression of weight having half an ounce for its unit has been extended to letters sent between the British Post Offices in China and Japan, and Manila, Batavia, Saigon, Pondicherry, Bangkok, Labuan, Singapore, Penang, Malacca, Ceylon, India, Aden, Suez, Malta, and the Ionian Islands; Gibraltar, and Spain and Portugal viâ Gibraltar.

11. The reduction of the fee upon registered letters from six pence to four pence in 1866, was confined to letters to and from the United Kingdom, but during the past year this reduction has been applied to registered letters addressed to any British Colony or foreign country in transit through the United Kingdom: for instance, a letter addressed to the United States of America can now be registered through to its destination for a fee of 16 cents instead of 24 cents as formerly.

12. In July the outward French mail packets commenced to leave Marseilles every alternate Sunday, instead of every fourth Sunday, and a fortnightly French service was also begun on this side, thus affording, in conjunction with the packets of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, a weekly mail service to and from the United Kingdom; but soon after the commencement of hostilities between France and Prussia the French line was reduced to one packet each way every twenty-eight days.

13. Soon after the breaking out of the war between France and Prussia the difficulties attending the transmission of the mails through France were such as to necessitate the outward mails being sent by way of Belgium and the Brenner to Brindisi, for transmission thence by Italian packet; the homeward mails followed the same route.

14. The number of letters sent between the United Kingdom and Hong Kong by means of the unsubsidized steamers proceeding through the Suez Canal has been very inconsiderable.

15. Negotiations are being carried on having for their object a regular exchange of direct mails between Hong Kong and Brindisi, including, of course, on the one side, correspondence for Italy and the Continent from China and Japan, and on the other, letters from Italy and the States beyond for Hong Kong, China, and Japan.

16. The rates of commission on money orders issued in the United Kingdom on Hong Kong, Shanghae, and Yokohama have been increased, and although the commission on money orders issued at these places on the United Kingdom has also been increased, the charges are still much less than those made at home. So far, the revenue derived to the Colony by the introduction of the money-order system has been unremunerative.

17. During the year the money orders drawn upon the United Kingdom have been as follows, viz. :—

No. of Money Orders Drawn.	Place.	Amount.	Commission which accrued to the Colony.
		£ s. d.	dols. cts.
1,839	Hong Kong	10,052 10 7	255 97
659	Shanghae	3,146 4 9	87 52
517	Yokohama	2,822 5 1	72 87
3,015		£16,021 0 5	$416 36

The amount remitted by means of money orders drawn on the United Kingdom in 1870, is 6,024*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* in excess of that remitted in 1869.

18. The money orders drawn in the United Kingdom have been as follows, viz. :—

No. of Money Orders Drawn.	Place.	Amount.	Commission which accrued to the Colony.
		£ s. d.	dols. cts.
32	On Hong Kong	144 12 6	7 18
6	„ Shanghae	14 11 10	0 78
8	„ Yokohama	32 18 8	1 60
46		£192 3 0	$9 56

The amount remitted from the United Kingdom by means of money orders drawn upon Hong Kong, Shanghae, and Yokohama, in 1870, is 35*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* in excess of that remitted in 1869.

19. The following figures show the result of the local money-order system :—

	Number.	Amount.	Commission.
		dols. cts.	dols. cts.
Money orders drawn in Hong Kong on Shanghae	25	417 16	4 20
„ „ „ Yokohama	13	220 70	2 40
„ „ Shanghae on Hong Kong	90	2,560 74	21 15
„ „ Yokohama „	80	1,995 06	15 15
Total - - - - - - -	208	$5,193 72	$42 90

20. The following statement shows a nominal increase amounting to $5,217·26 in the gross postal revenue of 1870 over that of 1869, but as the amount of uncollected revenue at the end of 1870 was $113·68 less than that which was outstanding at the end of 1869, the actual excess of gross revenue in 1870, as compared with the revenue of 1869, is $5,103·58, a result which I submit is very satisfactory in the present state of affairs on the Continent, which in partially paralyzing commerce, has doubtless diminished correspondence.

HONG KONG.

Comparative Statement of Revenue.

21.

	£	s.	d.	$
Total Revenue collected in 1870 - -	38,934	11	8	= 186,886·00
Add amount received from Imperial Post Office towards the maintenance of the postal agencies in China and Japan -	1,270	0	0	= 6,096·00
	40,204	11	8	= 192,982·00
Total Revenue collected in 1869 - -	39,117	13	1	= 187,764·74
Total increase in 1870, as compared with 1869 - - - - - - - -	£1,086	18	7	= $5,217·26

Amount of Imperial Revenue collected in 1870:—

	£	s.	d.
Remittances to London - -	24,385	19	8
Contributions to agencies - -	1,270	0	0

	£	s.	d.	$
	25,655	19	8	= 123,148·72
Amount of Imperial Revenue collected in 1869 - - - - - -	25,882	8	$6\frac{3}{4}$	= 124,235·66
Decrease in 1870 as compared with 1869	£226	8	$10\frac{3}{4}$	= $1,086·94

	$
Amount of Colonial Revenue collected in 1870 - - -	69,833·28
" " " " 1869 - - -	63,529·08
Increase in 1870 as compared with 1869 - - - -	$6,304·20

	$
The Colonial Expenditure in 1870, including $3,135·45 paid for the conveyance of ship mails, amounts to - -	40,363·46
Less contributed by Imperial Post Office in aid of maintenance of agencies at the ports - - - - -	6,096·00
Expenditure borne by the Colony in 1870 - - - -	34,267·46
" " " 1869 - - - -	33,872·70
Increase in 1870, as compared with 1869 - - - -	$394·76

22. It will thus be observed that the excess of the Colony's postal revenue over its ordinary expenditure for Post Office purposes during the past year amounted to $35,565·82.

23.

	£	s.	d.
The Colony's share of the postage on mails received from the United Kingdom in 1870 was - - -	1,394	11	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto ditto in 1869 was - - - - -	1,375	19	$7\frac{1}{2}$
Increase in 1870 - - -	£18	11	11

24.

The number of ship mails sent in 1870 was - - - -	1,816
" " " 1869 " - - - - -	1,839
Decrease in 1870 - - - - -	23

The number of ship mails received in 1870 was - - - -	1,191
" " " 1869 " - - - - -	1,178
Increase in 1870 - - - - - -	13

25.

	Letters.	Papers.
The number of letters and papers received by United States' packets in 1870 was - - -	14,572	16,820
In 1869 - - - - - - - - - -	12,039	16,374
Increase in 1870 - - - -	2,533	446

	Letters.	Papers.
The number of letters and papers sent by United States' packets in 1870 was - - - - -	21,145	21,055
In 1869 - - - - - - - - - -	17,549	14,090
Increase in 1870 - - - -	3,596	6,965

26. The San Francisco route has not been much availed of for the transmission of letters between the United Kingdom and Hong Kong.

27. The number of letters and papers sent from Hong Kong to the United Kingdom has been as follows, viz. :—

BY BRITISH PACKET.

	Letters.	Papers.
In 1870 - - - - -	191,539	152,862
In 1869 - - - - - -	188,201	168,761
Increase - - -	3,338	Decrease 15,899

BY FRENCH PACKET.

	Letters.	Papers.
In 1870 - - - - -	28,007	9,194
In 1869 - - - - - -	16,210	3,672
Increase - - -	11,797	5,522

28. The weight of letters sent to the United Kingdom in 1870 has been as follows:—

BY BRITISH PACKET.

	tons	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	oz.
In 1870 - - - - -	2	13	0	16	$10\frac{3}{4}$
In 1869 - - - - - -	2	19	1	5	13
Decrease - - -	0	6	0	17	$2\frac{1}{4}$

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BY FRENCH PACKET.

	tons	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	oz.
In 1870 - - - - -	0	10	0	24	8
In 1869 - - - - - -	0	5	1	26	6½
Increase - - -	0	4	2	26	1½

29. The weight of letters received from the United Kingdom in 1870, has been as follows:—

PER BRITISH PACKET.

	tons	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	oz.
In 1870 - - - - -	2	1	2	2	10
In 1869 - - - - - -	2	9	3	3	12
Decrease - - -	0	8	1	1	2

PER FRENCH PACKET.

	tons	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	oz.
In 1870 - - - - -	0	3	2	11	1½
In 1869 - - - - - -	0	3	2	15	13½
Decrease - - -	0	0	0	4	12

30.

	tons	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	oz.
The total weight of letters sent from Hong Kong to the United Kingdom in 1870 was	3	3	1	13	2¾
Ditto ditto in 1869 „	3	4	3	4	3½
Decrease - - -	0	1	1	19	0¾

	tons	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	oz.
The total weight of letters received from the United Kingdom in 1870 was - -	2	5	0	13	11½
Ditto ditto in 1869 „ - -	2	13	1	19	9½
Decrease - - -	0	8	1	5	14

31. The registered letters received from London in 1870 numbered - - - - - - - - - 1,687
Ditto ditto in 1869 numbered - - 1,451
Excess in 1870 - - - - - - 236

32. The registered letters sent to London from Hong Kong in 1870 numbered - - - - - - - - 1,517
Ditto ditto from Shanghae - - - 718
Ditto ditto from Yokohama - - 459
Ditto ditto from other ports - - 117
Total - - - - - - - 2,811
Total number of registered letters sent in 1869 - - - - 2,340
Excess in 1870 - - - - - 471

33. The number of registered letters sent to—

India during 1870 was	449
Galle	28
Australia	136
The Straits	87
The Continent of Europe	123
The Ports in China and Japan	114
Total	937
In 1869	647
Excess in 1870	290

The number of registered letters received from—

India during 1870 was	653
Galle	1,011
Australia	225
The Straits	875
The Continent of Europe	240
The Ports in China and Japan	194
Total	3,198
In 1869	2,315
Excess in 1870	883

34. The amount realized by the sale of postage stamps in 1870 was $144,131·48, of which stamps of the value of $85,258·12 were sold in Hong Kong, and the remainder, viz. $58,873·36, at the Post Office agencies at the ports, showing an *increase* of $8,427·24 in those sold in Hong Kong, and a *decrease* of $20,081·28 in those sold at the ports, as compared with 1869.

35. I annex a list of the number and value of each kind of postage stamps sold in 1870 and 1869, showing the increase or decrease, as the case may be, under each head, viz.:—

Postage Stamps sold in 1870.			Postage Stamps sold in 1869.		Increase.		Decrease.	
Denomination.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
cents.		dols. cts.		dols. cts.		dols. cts.		dols. cts.
2	261,179	5,223 58	244,941	4,898 82	16,238	324 76	—	—
4	155,927	6,237 08	148,382	5,935 28	7,545	301 80	—	—
6	117,160	7,029 60	147,832	8,869 92	—	—	30,672	1,840 32
8	253,228	20,258 24	244,305	19,544 40	8,923	713 84	—	—
12	60,664	7,279 68	70,297	8,435 64	—	—	9,633	1,155 96
18	8,640	1,555 20	8,604	1,548 72	36	6 48	—	—
24	114,846	27,563 04	116,372	27,929 28	—	—	1,526	366 24
30	106,243	31,872 90	110,747	33,224 10	—	—	4,504	1,351 20
48	27,891	13,387 68	35,636	17,105 28	—	—	7,745	3,717 60
96	24,713	23,724 48	29,473	28,294 08	—	—	4,760	4,569 60
Totals		$144,131 48		$155,785 52		$1,346 88		$13,000 92

36. The correspondence on official business sent from this Department to private individuals and firms, to the postal agents at the

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ports and to the various public offices, has materially increased, as has also the official correspondence received.

37. Returns are appended, marked *A* and *B*, from which it is satisfactory to notice that the British mail packets have arrived with the mails from home with punctuality, that the average time occupied in making the voyage has been less than it was in the previous year, and that 39 days is the shortest time in which a mail has been conveyed from London to Hong Kong viâ Marseilles, and 38 days viâ Brindisi. The return marked *C* shows that 38 days was also the shortest time occupied by the French packets in delivering a mail from London. On one occasion, however, the French packet arrived without a mail from London. Owing to the communication across France having been interrupted, this mail had failed to reach Marseilles in time; it was brought forward by the following British packet.

38. A return, marked *D*, is appended of the arrivals and departures of the United States' mail packets at Hong Kong, from which it will be observed that the voyage from San Francisco to Hong Kong has been performed five times in 33 days; and that the voyage to San Francisco has been accomplished on three occasions in 32 days. The average time occupied in the voyage from San Francisco has been 34½ days against 35¼ days in 1869.

I have, &c.,

F. W. MITCHELL,

Postmaster-General.

The Hon. J. Gardiner Austin,
Colonial Secretary.

CENSUS of HONG KONG, including the MILITARY and NAVAL ESTABLISHMENTS, April 2, 1871.

	Population.				Total.
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	
Europeans and Americans, resident population	1,381	684	407	264	2,736
British, military	709	36	45	31	821
„ naval establishment	1,022	—	—	—	1,022
Europeans, police	109	8	6	3	126
„ and Americans, mercantile shipping in the harbour	1,080	29	—	—	1,109
Europeans and Americans, temporary residents	57	—	—	—	57
„ „ prisoners	60	—	—	—	60
Total of Europeans and Americans	4,418	757	458	298	5,931
Goa, Manila, Indian, and others of mixed blood, resident	470	97	54	64	685
Goa, Manila, Indian, and others of mixed blood, crews of mercantile vessels in harbour	697	6	—	—	703
Indians, military	1,094	10	9	9	1,122
„ police	285	8	3	2	298
Goa, Manila, Indian, and others of mixed blood, prisoners	15	—	—	—	15
Total of Indians, &c.	2,561	121	66	75	2,823
Chinese in employ of Europeans, resident	5,436	808	170	195	6,609
„ „ „ in harbour	548	2	—	—	550
„ police	223	—	—	—	223
„ employed by naval and military establishments	458	—	—	—	458
Chinese residing in Victoria	47,647	14,269	5,299	5,769	72,984
„ „ villages and Kowloon	6,325	2,051	1,296	835	10,507
Boat population in Victoria	6,021	2,542	2,142	1,604	12,309
„ „ other than in Victoria	5,136	3,010	1,840	1,414	11,400
Prisoners	391	13	—	—	404
Total of Chinese	72,185	22,695	10,747	9,817	115,444
	79,164	23,573	11,271	10,190	124,198

Of Europeans and Americans, fixed residents, there are:—

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
British	524	160	102	83	869
Portuguese	447	467	290	163	1,367
German	152	14	—	4	170
American	94	17	11	11	133
French	48	9	1	2	60
Danish	22	1	—	—	23
Italian	11	13	—	1	25
Spanish	35	—	2	—	37
Swiss	8	—	—	—	8
Austrian	2	1	1	—	4
Norwegian	7	—	—	—	7
Swedish	9	—	—	—	9
Russian	6	—	—	—	6
Belgian	4	—	—	—	4
Mexican	3	—	—	—	3
Dutch	2	—	—	—	2
Turkish	3	1	—	—	4
Hungarian	2	1	—	—	3
Grecian	2	—	—	—	2
	1,381	684	407	264	2,736

DETAILED RETURN of the NUMBER and DESCRIPTION of VESSELS ANCHORED and PLYING in the HARBOUR and BAYS of HONG KONG, and their POPULATION.

Description of Vessels.	Victoria.					Aberdeen, &c.					Shaukiwan, &c.					Stanley, &c.					Kowloong.					Total.				
	No. of Vessels.	Adults.		Children.		No. of Vessels.	Adults.		Children.		No. of Vessels.	Adults.		Children.		No. of Vessels.	Adults.		Children.		No. of Vessels.	Adults.		Children.		No. of Vessels.	Adults.		Children.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
Trading junks	84	1,408	39	44	13	—	—	—	—	—	10	185	6	11	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	34	—	—	—	97	1,627	45	55	15
Passage boats	159	613	191	181	130	2	22	—	—	—	6	45	—	—	—	2	20	—	—	—	6	18	10	3	5	175	718	201	184	135
Cargo boats	288	1,093	339	337	312	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	40	22	25	11	301	1,133	361	362	323
Fishing boats	258	742	400	362	262	114	663	284	206	152	91	319	112	101	46	122	449	238	200	176	66	162	109	119	65	651	2,335	1,143	988	701
Stone boats	9	74	13	6	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	264	10	11	5	41	338	23	17	17
Hakow boats	62	217	132	115	96	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	26	12	11	8	68	243	144	126	104
Sampans	676	1,025	1,009	638	520	254	540	432	216	196	696	1,900	1,413	647	613	12	33	5	3	4	267	328	319	236	105	1,905	3,826	3,178	1,740	1,438
Bumboats	33	103	14	24	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	30	2	1	1	38	133	16	25	13
Pilots	5	42	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	13	5	10	8	—	—	—	—	—	3	11	8	10	7	12	66	16	21	16
Pullaway boats	250	568	340	365	198	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	14	17	18	24	7	265	588	360	393	206
Water boats	48	136	62	69	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	14	3	2	2	52	150	65	71	50
Total	1,872	6,021	2,542	2,142	1,604	370	1,225	716	422	348	808	2,465	1,538	773	670	136	502	243	203	180	419	944	513	442	216	3,605	11,157	5,552	3,982	3,018

EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS.

Class of School.	No. of Schools.	No. of British and Foreign Scholars.		Total No. of British and Foreign Scholars.	No. of Chinese Scholars.		Total No. of Chinese Scholars.	Grand Total.
		Boys.	Girls.		Boys.	Girls.		
Government - -	24	23	—	23	1,168	111	1,279	1,302
Roman Catholic, including Reformatory - -	6	105	80	185	136	182	318	503
Diocesan Orphanage - -	1	12	7	19	3	7	10	29
London Mission - -	2	—	—	—	60	—	60	60
Private School - -	2	9	9	18	—	—	—	18
Berlin Mission - -	1	—	—	—	—	20	20	20
Basle Mission - -	1	—	—	—	—	50	50	50
Chinese General - -	32	—	—	—	685	4	689	689
„ Private - -	5	—	—	—	29	6	35	35
	74	149	96	245	2,081	380	2,461	2,706

CENSUS of HONG KONG for each YEAR on 31ST DECEMBER from 1858 to 1869, and CENSUS 1870-71, exclusive of MILITARY, NAVAL, and POLICE Establishments.

	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.
	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.
Europeans and Americans -	1,109	1,034	1,592	1,557	1,604	1,644
Goa, Manila, Indian, and others of mixed blood -	566	477	784	1,284	1,268	1,336
Aliens, chiefly seamen and temporary residents -	82	150	100	100	100	100
Chinese in the employ of Europeans - - -	2,618	3,166	3,940	4,111	4,897	4,937
Chinese residing in Victoria	42,799	45,053	52,916	61,958	63,380	65,351
Chinese residing in villages	4,704	4,574	5,276	11,215	12,297	12,550
Chinese boat population in Victoria Harbour - -	16,277	14,701	17,417	18,871	21,336	20,699
Other than Victoria Harbour	5,648	16,136	11,142	12,038	10,303	9,838
Vagrants - - -	1,500	1,500	1,600	2,508	2,500	2,500
Emigrants - - -	200	150	150	229	200	200
Street coolies - - -	—	—	—	5,000	5,000	5,000
Prisoners, &c. - -	—	—	—	450	626	695
	75,503	86,941	94,917	119,321	123,511	124,850

	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868-69.	1870-71.
	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.
Europeans and Americans -	1,963	2,034	2,113	2,151	2,289	2,736
Goa, Manila, Indian, and others of mixed blood -	1,488	1,645	1,231	1,150	997	1,388
Aliens, chiefly seamen and temporary residents -	100	150	200	250	130	57
Chinese in the employ of Europeans - - -	6,239	6,836	6,658	6,451	6,739	7,617
Chinese residing in Victoria	67,743	73,803	65,606	75,743	72,959	72,984
Chinese residing in villages	11,836	11,371	9,618	9,951	11,164	10,507
Chinese boat population in Victoria Harbour - -	20,991	19,153	13,855	13,030	14,033	12,309
Other than Victoria Harbour	8,343	7,732	13,099	8,293	8,496	11,400
Vagrants - - -	2,000	2,000	2,000	—	—	—
Emigrants - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Street coolies - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prisoners, &c. - -	795	780	718	452	478	479
	121,498	125,504	115,098	117,471	117,285	119,477

HONG KONG.

Victoria, Hong Kong, January 17, 1871.

In my Sanitary Report for 1870, being the twelfth I have had the honour of submitting to the Government, I rejoice to be able to continue to record the improvement which has taken place in the health of the Colony since 1858. When the sudden and startling death of several members of our community is recalled to our recollection, we are prepared to find that 1870 has been eminently unhealthy. But the vital statistics of the past year, as shown in the following Tables, point out, that in the gaol, the improvement has been so marked that the mortality has been lower than in any year previously recorded; and if among the general community it appears somewhat larger, it must not be forgotten that the Tables are calculated upon the Census of 1869, and that the additional five deaths recorded would probably not increase the percentage of mortality above the average, if the Tables were compiled from more correct data, which will never be obtained until a proper system of registration of deaths is enforced by law. There can, however, be no doubt that in the early part of the summer, and up to the 3rd of August, there was a great and unusual increase of fever among the residents. For the most part it was not of a dangerous type, although by its tendency to relapse it caused great prostration; but in one or two cases it assumed something of the character of typhus, and proved rapidly fatal. Opinions varied among practitioners as to the cause of this disease, and I am aware that it was generally attributed to some cuttings in the hill side, and the spreading of the cut soil over the roads undergoing repair. I have never, however, concurred in this view, and believe that the sole cause of the malady must be traced to the remarkably small fall of rain which had taken place previous to the 3rd of August. I was led to form this opinion from the fact, that although cases of fever really did occur in the immediate neighbourhood of, and to leeward of these cuttings, and in certain localities in considerable number, this was not always the case; and not only was fever absent in certain other localities, equally exposed to the supposed exhalations, but it occurred both to windward of them, and in places where there had been no such cuttings. I think it much more reasonable to cast the onus on the absence of rain, and the state of our drains; for this reason, that no sooner did rain fall, on the 3rd of August, in sufficient quantity to wash out the sewers, than a marked amelioration took place in the health of the community.

RAINFALL from 1ST JANUARY to 31ST JULY for the last FOUR YEARS, registered at the GOVERNMENT CIVIL HOSPITAL.

Months.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
January - -	1·07	0·79	0·78	0·30
February - -	0·40	0·49	3·21	0·40
March - -	6·57	2·90	4·15	3·30
April - - -	2·23	6·55	4·17	0·31
May - -	10·62	10·07	10·01	16·26
June - - -	8·22	30·79	9·12	5·04
July - -	17·11	5·53	6·83	4·74
Total - -	46·22	57·12	38·27	30·35

And this naturally leads me to refer to the drains. It is not creditable to this Colony that after their unhealthy condition has been pointed out, both by myself and by the Sanitary Commission, they should remain as they are, a source of disease and death. In the early part of the past year the tenants and others interested in the Praya lots applied to the Government, through me, in regard to the seaward openings of the drains, and the noxious emanations from the foreshore, but the lowness of the public exchequer is the excuse offered for the unavoidable continuation of this most dangerous nuisance. Pending some more radical improvement, the drains should be run out into deep water, so as to prevent sewerage being exposed on the foreshore at low tides, and the openings trapped, to prevent the wind blowing up them, and thus forcing the foul air out at the various gratings throughout the town. Carbolic acid has been freely used, but no amount of it will suffice, until the system of drainage has been entirely remodelled as recommended by the Sanitary Commission.

Typhus fever was imported in eight vessels from Yokohama between the 10th February and the 11th May—and all these vessels were placed in quarantine. In the eight vessels there were thirteen cases of fever, of which number one terminated fatally. The Health Officer of the port, Dr. Adams, has, as promised last year, sent in a Report on the subject of the connection between this disease and the ballasting of ships with tidal mud, a subject which has attracted considerable attention in other countries. Of 235 vessels in ballast, only 20 carried mud alone, obtained from Shanghai; and in those 20 no case of fever occurred; "124 of the total number came from Yokohama, Japan, ballasted either with ordinary soil, obtained from the hill side, or with muddy shingle, taken from the beach:" "eight of the ships so ballasted had typhus fever on board." "It is significant that (although cases of typhus had occurred on shore at Yokohama, where the crews might have been infected) no typhus fever was reported while the vessels had cargo on board, general or otherwise." Now as Shanghai mud is unquestionably "tidal" and the ballast obtained at Yokohama was not strictly of this character, there does not appear to be any strong evidence afforded in the cases recorded in favour of the theory that it is a frequent source of typhus.

In the winter of 1869–70 there were very few cases of small-pox reported, but in December last they commenced to appear, and by the end of the year there had been 14 cases admitted into the Government Civil Hospital, and 46 into the Seamen's Hospital, besides seven in the Gaol. Since the beginning of the year the disease has been rapidly approaching an epidemic form, in spite of every precaution taken by the police to prevent it spreading.

No other epidemic visited the Colony during the past year.

I.—THE POLICE.

Although both the rate of sickness and the rate of mortality of this Force have been higher than in the previous year, it is not much above what it was in 1868, nor greatly in excess of the average rate.

HONG KONG.

Table I. shows the number of admissions into, and deaths in, the hospital, of members of the Police Force, during every month of 1870. The greatest number of admissions took place in August, but the greatest number of Europeans were admitted in June.

Table II. shows the rate per cent. of sickness and mortality of the Force during the same year.

Table III. shows the state of the health of the troops serving in Hong Kong during the year 1870 not to have been so good as in 1869, nor to compare as favourably with that of the police as it did in the previous year.

II.—THE GOVERNMENT CIVIL HOSPITAL.

There is no institution in this Colony with which I am connected that I have less satisfaction in referring to. I do not complain of the management, or the staff of the hospital, for under Dr. Young's vigilant superintendence the results are most satisfactory, but the building is quite unfit for the purpose to which it is applied, both in regard to size and construction. During the past year no less than 1,296 cases have been treated in the present structure, which is neither large enough for, nor adapted to, the treatment of one-third of that number. There is, therefore, great reason for thankfulness that the rate of mortality has been less than in the previous year, although it exceeded that of 1868.

Table V., which gives the rate of mortality during the last twelve years, distinguishing that of Europeans from coloured persons and Chinese, shows at a glance that the general mortality has not reached the average, except in the case of coloured persons; that the rate of mortality is still much higher than it was in 1868 among Europeans, somewhat lower among coloured persons, and about the same as it was that year among Chinese.

By examining Table IV., which gives the number of admissions into, and the mortality in this hospital during the year 1870, it will be seen that the admissions have increased under the heading of small-pox, diarrhœa and dysentery, fevers, gonorrhœa, vertigo, pneumonia, pleuro-pneumonia and pleuritis, hepatitis and splinitis, drunkenness, and lastly impostors. The increased mortality resulted from small-pox, remittent and typhoid fever, dropsy, pneumonia, hepatitis and abscess of the liver, anœmia, fractures, and gun-shot wounds. There have been fewer admissions from phthisis, paralysis, and delirium tremens, bronchitis, colic, and notably both fewer admissions and deaths from jaundice and from all forms of wounds, except gun-shot wounds. There have also been fewer moribund persons sent to hospital, many, doubtless, having been taken to the "I-tze."

Table IX. shows the number of admissions into, and deaths in, the Government Civil Hospital during every month of 1870.

During the year six invalids were sent home by the Harbour Master and the United States' Consul, and I understand they all arrived in safety at their destination.

Table VI, A, B, and C., kindly sent to me by the Resident Surgeon, Dr. Adams, gives similar information in reference to the Seamen's Hospital as the preceding Tables give for the Civil

Hospital. The result of treatment has been eminently successful during the year, and the Tables are exceedingly satisfactory in consequence. HONG KONG.

III.—THE GAOL.

Table VII. shows the number of admissions into the Goal Hospital, and the deaths there, during the year 1870.

Table VIII. shows the rate of sickness and mortality in the Gaol Hospital, as compared with the total number of prisoners, and with the number treated during the year 1870. By this Table it will be seen that the total number of prisoners is greater than in 1869, that the rate of sickness was also greater, but the rate of mortality 25 per cent. less than in the previous year—less in absolute number than I have recorded since 1859, when there was a total of 2,484 prisoners, a daily average of 239, and 4 deaths.

The numbers imprisoned in Victoria Gaol during the past year were—

Europeans	1,099
Indians	155
Chinese	3,051
Total	4,305

The daily average was 482, of which number only 4 died. In 1869 the daily average was 465, the total number during the year 4,122, and the deaths 5.

It will be seen that the increase in the number of prisoners is entirely among Europeans, for refusal of duty and similar cases, and that the number of Chinese and coloured prisoners is even less than in 1869.

In 1869 the greatest number any one day in gaol was on the 10th February, when there were—

Europeans	85
Indians	18
Chinese	461
Total	564

The smallest number in prison was on the 3rd December, when there were—

Europeans	70
Indians	18
Chinese	304
Total	392

During the past year both the maximum and minimum number of prisoners have been in excess of the previous year. Thus the

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greatest number confined on any one day in 1870 was on the 31st August, when there were—

Europeans	113
Indians	13
Chinese	449
Total	575

The smallest number in gaol during the same year was on the 17th March, when there were—

Europeans	78
Indians	14
Chinese	338
Total	430

The greatest amount of sickness occurred on the 31st August, when there were :

Hospital cases	6
Trifling cases	20
Total	26

The smallest amount of sickness was recorded on the 11th November, when there were—

Hospital cases	0
Trifling cases	8
Total	8

There is very little to record in reference to the sickness of the past year in this institution. Three of the four deaths which occurred arose from fever, the fourth being a case of sun-stroke in an European. The building is neatness itself, and as long as its management continues in the able hands of Mr. Douglas, it must remain a model of good order, and perfect discipline, combined with as much kindness and consideration, as the control of such a number of criminals will admit of.

IV.—THE LOCK HOSPITAL.

In my last Annual Report I entered so fully into the question of the working of the Contagious Diseases Ordinance, and this establishment, that I need do little more, on the present occasion, than refer to the statistics contained in Tables A, B, C, and D of the Appendix. It will be seen that a great improvement has taken place during the past year. In the two hospitals, the percentage of contagious diseases contracted in Hong Kong to all admissions, was

8·96, against nearly double that amount in 1869. In the garrison, the percentage of primary disease to the total strength was reduced to 5·51, against 6·83 in 1869, and among the British ships of war which have visited this port during the past year, only 116 cases of contagious disease were contracted in Hong Kong. In the Police a similar improvement has taken place, and the percentage of infection has been reduced from 16·66 in 1869 to 13·75 in 1870. Again, in turning to Table X., we find that the type of the disease is undergoing a steady improvement, under the strict surveillance to which the women are subjected; the average number of days of treatment having further diminished from 24·8 in 1869 to 23·1 in 1870. The whole of these Tables, as well as Table XIV., convey a large amount of information, and will well repay a careful study. HONG KONG.

I have added, in Appendix E and F, a letter addressed to me by Deputy Inspector-General Pottinger, of H. M.'s Naval Hospital; and statistics from Surgeon Ramsay of H. M.'s 75th Regiment, in reference to the freedom of the men of his regiment from contagious disease. The evidence of these gentlemen is extremely valuable and gratifying to myself, under whose care the medical examinations have been carried on for the past twelve years. Both gentlemen have had experience of Hong Kong, and known what "Hong Kong Disease" was before the introduction of the Contagious Diseases Ordinance into the Colony; and both agree as to the great contrast. Dr. Pottinger says: "Judging from my own experience, I should say that syphilis has *all but* disappeared from the Colony." Dr. Ramsay writes: "I may add that during an experience of 16 years as an army medical officer in all climates, I have not seen a similar immunity."

Dr. Pottinger refers to my method of examination and says: "The instruments used by you are admirably adapted for bringing "into view the parts, including the os and cervix uteri, very quickly, "thoroughly, and without the least pain to the female." Deputy Inspector Dr. Bernard wrote to me in 1868: "I was much struck "by the method adopted by you, combining as it does an efficient "searching inspection with great rapidity of execution, and appearing "to me much better than that made with the ordinary speculum." Dr. Heffernan, Deputy Inspector-General, writing in regard to the same matter, refers to these instruments thus: "I have witnessed "this examination as carried out by you here, and consider it to be "done most effectually." Surgeon Major Barnier, of the French frigate 'Guerrière,' who had great experience in France, after expressing his opinion as to the "peu de gravité et du petit nombre "des cas de syphilis contractés par les Européens dans cette ville," says in reference to these instruments: "J'ai vu examiner ces "femmes avec un instrument inventé par le Docteur Murray, "Colonial Surgeon, et j'ai constaté que l'emploi, d'ailleurs très "facile, de cette instrument, permet d'examiner en moyenne trois "femmes par minute." I have only to add that Dr. Newton, who has charge of the Lock Hospitals and the prevention of syphilis in Japan, uses no other instruments, and writes of them: "They are "such effective instruments, much superior to any kind of speculum."

I shall be glad to find that the value of these instruments, which a

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twelve years' daily use has enabled me to perfect, is appreciated by the Profession, and that they are brought into general use, as it is impossible to imagine anything that could be used better adapted to the purpose for which they are intended, or more likely to facilitate the carrying out of the Ordinance with advantage. The two points I have constantly kept in view being rapidity of employment combined with an effectual and searching examination, I believe that I have succeeded in attaining these objects. This, however, is no place in which to describe the instruments themselves.

Table XI. shows the approximative estimate of the mortality among the foreign residents in Hong Kong during the past thirteen years. It does not include deaths among soldiers, sailors, whether of the Navy or Merchant Service, nor those buried from the hospitals, who are usually non-residents. It has no pretension to accuracy, nor can it be any more than approximative, until some system of registration of deaths is introduced. This is a matter of the greatest importance, and really of more interest to every resident in the Colony than is generally supposed, for until it is possible to obtain proper statistics of the actual mortality and the cause of death, in all cases, a valuable aid is withdrawn from the medical practitioner in the treatment of disease.

Table XII. gives the usual information regarding the work performed by the Inspector of Nuisances attached to this Department.

Table XIII. shows the annual mean state of the atmosphere during the year 1870, as recorded at the Government Civil Hospital.

J. I. MURRAY, M.D.,
Colonial Surgeon.

SIR, Hong Kong, February 28, 1871.

I have the honour to forward to you the Annual Report on the schools in this Colony under Government supervision during the year 1870.

2. The state in which these schools are will be best seen by considering them under the following division:—The Central School, the Village Schools supported by Government, and the schools receiving grants in aid.

3. A reference to the Tables which are subjoined will show that the Central School continues to maintain its ground in point of numbers, the average for the year being a little higher than for any previous year. Apprehensions of a falling off in the attendance may be said to have disappeared. The commercial prosperity of the Colony can hardly fall to a lower ebb than it has been at during the last few years, and, this being so, and the boys looking forward solely to mercantile employment, depression of trade, unless carried to a much further extent than has yet been experienced, can hardly be expected to interfere with the prosperity of the school. It is to be hoped that this is an indication of some appreciation of the school for its own sake rather than for any mere money-making for which it may be considered a preparation.

4. The highest attendance was in June, when there were 248 on the roll for the month. The lowest was in January, when the number was 208. The average for the year was 237. There is very little cause for complaint about irregularity. It would be difficult to find anywhere a school of the size more regularly attended. Sickness is the principal cause of absence, but even that prevails to a very small extent. The only absences which cause annoyance are those necessitated by some family matter, a marriage or a funeral. In such a case, nothing less than a month is thought sufficient, and, sometimes, no persuasion, not even a threat, avails to reduce the period of leave below six weeks. Nothing could more clearly show the extraordinarily little value which the Chinese set upon time, except, perhaps, what is seen at some of the villages, where many of the children leave school at the end of the tenth month, because it is then the end of the year. Of recent years, the number of long absences has been decreasing, and this is probably due, in a great measure, to the fact that the school holidays are fixed to suit the two most important Chinese holidays, those, namely, at the New Year and the Tomb Festival.

5. The greatest number of absentees was in August, when they amounted to 17; but of these 13 were absent from continued illness. The smallest number was in February, when there were 5, of whom 3 were sick. The average number of such absentees for the year was 12 per month. Taking all things into consideration, this number is exceedingly limited.

6. The result of the year's work, was, as usual, tested by written examinations in all the classes. A paper is set on each subject which the class has been taught during the year, and those who get less than one-third of the total number of marks assigned to the subjects of their class are considered as having failed. The total number of such failures in the six English classes was 20, or an average of about 3 to each class. Even this proportion, though small, is not due entirely to idleness, but arises, in the majority of cases, from promotion to a higher class but a few months before the examination. Another cause of failure is found in the case of boys other than Chinese. These, knowing but little of Chinese, lose the marks assigned for translation *from* and *into* that language.

7. It would occupy too much space either to give the examination lists and papers, or to analyze them minutely. They are, however, all recorded, and are available at any time when required. The boys themselves take great interest in these lists. They carefully note the number of marks they have gained in each particular subject, and take them as a guide to future study. The masters, too, look forward to the results with no little anxiety, as they find in them a test of their success or failure in teaching. The work of examination is necessarily very laborious, but what is gained by it more than compensates for the unusual exertion.

8. The first or highest class was examined in ten subjects,—Algebra, Arithmetic, Chemistry, Dictation, English Composition, Geography, Geometry, Grammar, Translation from Chinese into English, and Translation from English into Chinese. The total number of marks assigned to these subjects was 780, and the marks

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gained by the first six on the list were respectively 683, 669, 669, 655, 643, and 633. After these, *nine* had over 500, *six* over 400, and *four* over 360 marks.

9. The other classes were examined on the same subjects,—Algebra, Chemistry, and Geometry excepted,—these being confined, at present, exclusively to the senior class. The general result of the examinations, previously referred to, must suffice, in this Report, for indicating the way in which these classes passed.

10. The Chemistry class, after a full year's experience, can now be reported on with some confidence. The course for the year embraced the most important of the non-metallic elements. No text-book has as yet been used, and it is a doubtful point whether one should be used, because the oral instruction given both ensures attention on the part of the class, and is also a test of their knowledge of English, the only language which is spoken. The class has been conducted in this way:—On Saturday a lesson is given with experiments. On Monday the boys bring in English an account of what they have heard and seen,—an exercise which serves the double purpose of fixing the lesson on their minds and of practising them in composition. In the course of the week, an hour is devoted to oral examination on the last, and a revisal of the preceding, subjects. There can be no hesitation in saying that this part of the school work is thoroughly enjoyed, and if one may judge by the papers written at the examination, not unprofited by.

11. The three junior classes are now taught the elements of Music, but this has been too lately introduced to permit of any report on the progress made. One lesson of one hour a week is all that has yet been attempted, although it is very questionable if such short time gives either class or subject fair play. At the same time, it is impossible at the Central School, where a language has to be acquired, to give the same time to such subjects as is given in schools where only one language is required of the scholars, and that their mother-tongue.

12. Drawing will be commenced in the three senior classes as soon as the materials arrive from England. There will then be an extra subject for each of the English masters,—for the Head Master Chemistry, for the Second Master Drawing, and for the Third Master Music. I need not say that these will be treated strictly as *extra* subjects. Nothing must be allowed to interfere with, or at least to impede, the learning of English.

13. The number of boys other than Chinese is gradually increasing, and, in a few years, will necessitate another master and an addititional class-room. There are now 5 English, 2 Portuguese, 2 Japanese, and 14 Indian boys. The number of half-caste boys, too, has lately increased considerably. With this difference, that they are of a livelier temperament, owing probably to a less restrained up-bringing, and that they can enunciate more easily and clearly than their Chinese schoolfellows, due no doubt to their being accustomed from their infancy to the jargon which passes for English here, there is not much to distinguish them from those of purely Chinese descent. If anything, they are rather worse to manage, but when one considers the extreme docility of Chinese boys, this

trait scarcely deserves a passing notice. A school of Chinese boys is a disciplinarian's paradise.

14. In the course of the year 95 boys left school. Of these, 40 are in business, some as interpreters, some as clerks, some as assistant compradores, some as assistants in Chinese shops, some as brokers, printers, and so on. Some have gone to California, some to Japan, others to Tientsin, Shanghai, Foochow, Canton, Macao, Saigon, Annam, and Bombay, while 25 remain in Hong Kong. Of the remainder, 8 left on account of sickness, 18 left the Colony along with their parents, 14 were removed from the roll principally for irregularities, 6 went to Chinese schools, 6 left for causes unknown, 1 was poor, 1 died, and 1 was married. Why the last should have considered himself excused it is difficult to say, for nearly all in the first class and many of those in the second are married.

15. There is nothing special to report in connection with the Chinese classes. They are three in number, and under three very competent masters. The same time is devoted to Chinese as to English, that is, four hours a day to each. Every effort is made, by weekly revisals and occasional examinations, to ensure as much attention to this part of the work as to that of the English classes; and this is the more necessary, as a good deal of latent opposition has to be encountered in the teaching of Chinese in the school. The people have very deeply-rooted notions of their own as to the selection of masters and the number of scholars whom one master should teach; and teaching by classes, while admitted to be very good in the teaching of English, is declared to be altogether unsuitable for the teaching of Chinese. Patience and perseverance will enable the school to outlive these prejudices.

16. The Preparatory Class, which was established to secure a certain knowledge of both English and Chinese before admission into the regular classes, has given proof of the usefulness which was expected of it. The mastership of this class is given as a reward to one of the best scholars taught in the school. Under him the boys learn the elements of reading, writing, and arithmetic, as a preparation for the English classes; and under one of the Chinese masters, who take this class alternately, they are prepared for the Chinese classes.

17. The school fees for the year amounted to $1,701·65, of which the sum of $1,460·75 was paid into the Treasury, and $240·90, being the fees paid by the Preparatory Class, went to the payment of the teacher of that class.

18. There only remains, under this division, to acknowledge, on behalf of the school in general and of successful scholars in particular, the liberality of the Honourable C. C. Smith, Dr. Murray, Mr. Hayllard, Mr. Gerrard, Mr. Wai Kwong, and Mr. Kwok Cheung, who added so largely to the Prize Fund. While there is, no doubt, a good deal of hard work on the part of the boys, due to a desire for respectable and lucrative employment, the incentive to diligence produced by the valuable prizes which are given annually is of the most marked character. It is gratifying to be able to state that next year the list of donors will be considerably increased. These

and others of the community would add greatly to their kindness by coming and making personal experience of what the boys can or cannot do. It is matter of regret that while so many give liberally, so few care to come and judge of the school for themselves. This is not said from any desire to parade the school, than which nothing could be more distasteful; but it is not unnatural to wish that the public knew exactly what an institution is worth which needs so large a sum of the public money for its support.

19. The Village Schools, which are free schools supported entirely by Government, are twelve in number. They stand in the following order of efficiency, as tested by an examination of each school:—

1. Stanley.
2. Sai-ying P'ún (Pún-ti).
3. Girls' School.
4. Bowrington.
5. Sai-ying P'ún (Hak-ka).
6. Webster's Crescent.
7. Tang-lung Chau (Púnti).
8. Aberdeen.
9. West End.
10. Tang-lung Chau (Hak-ka).
11. Wong-nai Ch'ung.
12. Sháu-ki Wán.

20. These, as has been said in previous Reports, are Chinese schools, pure and simple. Chinese books alone are used, and the mode of instruction is such as would be found in any native village school in China. But this has been too often noticed to need repetition.

21. The great aim in the supervision of these schools is to see that what is taught is taught methodically and well, that regularity, and especially punctuality, be attended to, and that cleanliness be not forgotten. It would perhaps be difficult to fix any precise amount of improvement from one year to another; but, on looking back over the last nine years, evidences of progress are not wanting. The Chinese are very slow to appreciate anything which is not precisely as they are accustomed to it, and in nothing is their conservatism so apparent as in education. Foreigners may know something of other matters, especially if they have reference to trade, but, in the matter of education, the dullest villager and the most ignorant boat-woman loudly proclaim their superiority, without the slightest suspicion of its being questioned. *They* know exactly what books their children are to read, and when and how they are to be read, the opinion of all foreigners to the contrary notwithstanding.

22. The school buildings are good and suitable, except those at Bowrington and Stanley. I had hoped to see these two reappear on the estimates. A new school-house at Stanley is greatly needed, but one at Bowrington is an absolute necessity, as has been pointed out on previous occasions. The number of scholars taught at the school during the year was 92. The highest number on the roll, on any one month, was 76, the lowest, 56, and 63 was the average for the year. Yet this large number has to be accommodated in the upper floor of a small, low-roofed, ill-ventilated Chinese house. I cannot forego this opportunity of once more calling the attention of the Government to the necessity of proceeding with the erection of the proposed school-house at Bowrington.

23. Three masters died in the course of the year—those at Sháu-ki Wán, at the Hak-ka school at Tang-lung Chau, and at the

Pún-ti school at Sai-ying P'ún. The last had been a Government schoolmaster for upwards of 10 years, and had always a very good school. There was one dismissal, that of the master at Sháu-ki Wán, the predecessor of the one that died. This has always been a wretched school as regards attendance. It was thought advisable, as the Hak-kas showed so little appreciation of it, to allow the Pún-tis a chance; but last year's experience does not inspire much confidence as to the benefit of the change. The schools at Aberdeen and Wong-nai Ch'ung are continual sources of disappointment, but they are good schools when compared with the one at Sháu-ki Wan.

24. The Pún-ti school at Tang-lung Chau, after being for many years at the head of the Village Schools, has lately been very unfortunate. For situation, the healthiest, apparently, of all the schools, no fewer than three masters have died within the short period since the new school was opened. Other masters of the school have had long periods of serious illness, and several of the scholars have died. As death after death occurs, the superstitious fears of the children are increased, and the withdrawals become more and more numerous. There is no apparent remedy for this, but a change for the better is greatly desiderated.

25. The schools in receipt of grants in aid are now 11 in number. Five were added during the year. These are the schools at Shek Shán, Hok Ün, Yau-ma Ti, Ma-t'au Ch'ung, and the Hak-ka school at T'o-kwa Wán. The whole may be arranged in the following order:—

1. Ap-li Chau.
2. Ma-t'au Ts'ün.
3. T'o-kwa Wán (Hak-ka).
4. Little Hong Kong.
5. Ma-t'au Ch'ung.
6. Mong Kok.
7. Yau-ma Ti.
8. Hok Ün.
9. Hung Hom.
10. T'o-kwa Wán.
11. Shek Shán.

26. Ap-li Chau, which in 1869 had simply a free site, received last year a grant in aid, the site being abandoned. This is by far the best of these schools, and if classified with the whole of the village schools, without regard to grant or otherwise, would stand ninth in order. The highest number of scholars on the roll was 41, and the lowest 30. The regular attendance averaged 31.

27. These schools differ from the ordinary village schools simply in this, that the villagers provide the school-house and select the master, who gets, or is supposed to get, one half of his salary in kind from the parents of his scholars, and the other half, amounting to 60 dollars a year, from Government.

28. It was thought, at the commencement, that this system of grants in aid would meet many difficulties, and might probably be extended in time to all the village schools. It enables the villagers to choose their own schoolmaster, a privilege which they consider peculiarly their own, and which they very reluctantly resign. It was thought, also, that by having to provide one-half the master's salary, they would be more anxious to have their children taught by way of a return for the expense incurred, and that they would be a check on

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the master,—a safeguard, I am sorry to say, not so unnecessary as it might be.

29. These hopes are a long way from their realization. Application for a grant in aid in too many cases means simply a source of revenue to the village. Government is a fair object for plunder. The want of a school is first discerned by a needy and placeless schoolmaster. The next step is a circuit of the village, full of promises of many good things to come. The next is a petition, composed by himself, but purporting to be from the villagers, setting forth the poverty of the village as extreme, the ignorance of the children as appalling, and the merits of the aspiring schoolmaster as unparalleled. The last step is a deputation for the presentation of the petition. All this is, outwardly, as it should be ; but, behind so much fair-seeming, there has been no lack of chicanery,—a hard-driven bargain on the part of the villagers for so much hard cash for the privilege of teaching their children, but probably taking the form of so much rent for the school-house, albeit the petition distinctly states that the village provides the school-house free.

30. When the master is appointed, everything goes well for several months, perhaps for the whole year ; but, by that time, envy has done its work. Another candidate appears, and larger promises are made or exacted. The petition is now to the effect that the master is as bad as he was formerly good, and that the new candidate is the only man who can repair the injury done to the school. When any reluctance is shown to comply with the request, it is pretty plainly intimated that if the new man is not accepted there will be no children at school next year.

31. Something of this nature is now going on at Little Hong Kong. The master there was the people's choice some years ago. It so happens that the Ti-po of the village has a son who aspires to the office of schoolmaster. Towards the end of the year, the Ti-po headed a deputation from the village and presented a petition against the present schoolmaster, and in favour of the aspiring one. The catalogue of the former's demerits was long, but not longer than that of the latter's merits. An attempt was made to convince the deputation that they were greatly to blame for not making the charges at the time the faults were alleged to have occurred, thus giving an opportunity of inquiring into them. They had no time to come and do so, was all their answer.

32. The schoolmaster was informed of what had been done, and probably taxed the villagers with their deceit, for they soon returned with a complete change of argument. The present master had enjoyed the salary for many years, and it was now time that another should have his turn of it. This was not to be listened to, and the deputation was plainly told so. Shortly after the Ti-po returned alone, and wanted to know definitely whether the new master would be accepted or not. When told that he certainly would not, the old man retorted so impudently that there should then be no scholars, that nothing but his gray hairs saved him from forcible extrusion. A scheme of a similar sort is understood to be maturing at Ma-t'au Ts'ün. As has been often said, the Government is the obliged party when the villagers condescend to let their children learn to read.

33. Attention is, as usual, called in Table VI. to the number of uneducated children in the Colony. This is done simply because it is well to have such a fact fairly presented and fairly looked at. If blame is attachable to anyone, it is to the parents, because they have only to show the slightest willingness to have their children taught, to secure attention to their case. It will probably be sufficiently evident from what has already been said, that if left to themselves the parents, in the majority of instances, have no great desire for the instruction of their children. If education were made obligatory one point would certainly be gained, but only one. The extreme poverty of many of the people in the villages and in boats would throw on the Government the onus of clothing and feeding, as well as educating, if any compulsory scheme were enacted.

34. To find an exact parallel to the state of things here we must go back a century or two in the history of our own country. Education there has not had its present extensive diffusion by any *fiat*. It has been a gradual, and a very gradual, process. We have the whole of that gradual process to go through in Hong Kong, although there is a tendency in most of us to forget or ignore that fact, and to imagine that the nineteenth century in England means the nineteenth century in Hong Kong, or, which comes to the same thing, that there is no reason why what is done in England should not have its exact counterpart here. It is argued, moreover, that education is *universal* in China, and that the poorest "Coolie" can read and write. This is one of the many fallacies which prevail on the subject of China and its people. It is only after a certain stage of material comfort has been reached that people can turn their thoughts to anything which is not material; and, until we have many more people among the poorer classes in Hong Kong who have not to go and earn a meal before they can eat it, it is almost folly to discuss comprehensive schemes of education for their benefit. Those who have been in the way of visiting the villages on the mainland say that the state of Hong Kong is not peculiar. Every village has its school, but only a fraction of the village children attend it. As the Chinese Government affords them no assistance, those who wish their children taught must take the whole burden of the schoolmaster's salary on themselves. This, in such poverty-stricken places, excludes the very poor, who are by far the majority; and if poor parents, by dint of much self-denial, should be able to send *one* of the family to school, it is all that they can possibly accomplish. The result is that, while ten or twelve may be found in the school, scores of children are to be seen on the hill sides tending the cattle.

35. Perhaps the greatest educational want in Hong Kong is that of a school, or schools, for European and American children of both sexes. In spite of the facilities afforded by St. Saviour's College and the Convent, many residents must have much difficulty in knowing how to get their children taught. The school need not be a free one. After the preliminary expenses of site and building, with which Government might fairly charge itself, the fees would go far to make the school self-supporting. It has been often suggested that the Colonial Chaplain might have such a school under his immediate care, but subject to Government supervision. Under whatever regu-

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lations it might ultimately be placed, such a school is very much wanted, and it is matter of astonishment that parents have not long ago made a strenuous movement in this direction.

36. I have only, in conclusion, to add that I should be very glad if the state of the village schools were such as to enable me to pay them fewer than monthly visits. As the Central School advances, my time is more and more required in it. As each additional master has been added, more work has been rendered possible, and as long as the possible is not actual, a school is not in the state in which it ought to be.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. J. Gardiner Austin, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) FREDK. STEWART,
Inspector of Government Schools.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

(No. 43.) Colonial Secretary's Office, Hong Kong, March 6th, 1871.

The following Report of the Harbour Master, with returns annexed for the year 1870, is published for general information.

By command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

Harbour Master's Office, Hong Kong, February 17, 1871.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward the following Annual returns from this Department for the year ending 31st of December, 1870, viz.:—

Nos. I. to XXI. not printed.

XXII. Comparative statement of the trade of the Colony from 1859 to 1870, inclusive.

Shipping.

2. In my last Report I was enabled to show an improved state of the trade of the Colony as compared with the preceding year.

3. It is satisfactory to find that the year under review exhibits a still further improvement, although the fortnightly French mail has ceased running; and the Pacific Mail Steam-ship Company have not as yet increased the number of their vessels, but there seems every prospect that such will shortly be the case.

4. The gross increase of ships and tonnage on the year 1869 is 2,433 vessels, with a carrying capacity of 311,028 tons. Of this increase, there are 20,543 tons from Great Britain; 48,349 tons from India; 28,436 tons from Siam; 86,615 tons from Japan; 32,166 tons from Macao; and 109,594 tons from the ports in China and Formosa; whilst from other places there is a decrease.

5. Of the ships of different nations arriving at this port, it will be seen that there is a marked increase in those under the British flag,

consisting of 133 vessels and 161,520 tons. The number and tonnage of vessels under the French and American flags have also increased, whilst those under the North-German flag, in consequence of the war, have 87 vessels with 26,148 tons less than in 1869, and this large diminution is but the effect of a few months' hostilities.

6. To this Report I have appended a comparative statement of the trade of the Colony during the several years I have been connected with Hong Kong.

7. Some idea can be formed of the necessity for having increased the number of employés in the Department when it is seen that the total of arrivals and departures combined in 1870, is 62,572 vessels, and 5,864,514 tons, as against 2,179 vessels and 1,164,640 tons in 1859; or 2,771 per cent. more vessels' movements are recorded and 403 per cent. more tons are registered now than in the year brought forward, for purposes of comparison.

Junk Trade.

8. In my last Report on this subject, I attributed the then falling off of this trade to the effect of the Customs stations in the vicinity of the Colony. Whether it is that the officers in charge of them are less zealous in the performance of their duties, or that brighter days have dawned on the commercial prosperity of the Colony, I am unable to say, beyond that the latter would seem probable. But certain it is that trade in native bottoms has increased, and now stands at its highest since the "Harbour and Coasts Ordinance, "1866," was introduced.

9. The former opponents of this measure, it is to be hoped, will now rest satisfied that its anticipated baneful effects have not been realized, but that on the contrary, the general trade of the Colony, whether native or foreign, is in a highly healthly condition, and piracy, once so rife in these waters and their neighbourhood, is now seldom, if ever, heard of.

Emigration.

10. Under this heading there is a sensible decrease, amounting to 3,460 men, 1,549 women, 204 boys, and 80 girls.

11. The opposition evinced in the United States of America to the introduction of Chinese labour is having its effect, whether for good or evil remains to be seen.

12. Emigration under contract is at present prohibited at Hong Kong, except to British Possessions, but to these the restrictions and difficulties are so great, that only 70 Chinese left for Labuan during the year.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) H. G. THOMSETT, R.N.,
Harbour Master, &c.

Hon. J. Gardiner Austin,
&c. &c. &c.

HONG KONG.

XXII.—RETURN of the ARRIVALS of VESSELS at this PORT from places outside the COLONY for the following YEARS.

Years.	British.		Foreign.		Total.	
	No. of Vessels.	Tons.	No. of Vessels.	Tons.	No. of Vessels.	Tons.
1859 - - -	560	286,775	598	339,761	1,158	626,536
1860 * - -	737	430,185	797	443,014	1,534	873,199
1861 - - -	552	318,384	707	339,812	1,259	658,196
1862 - -	636	316,706	754	372,123	1,390	688,829
1863 - - -	816	472,125	1,006	422,799	1,822	894,924
1864 - -	1,043	549,162	1,221	464,586	2,264	1,013,748
1865 - - -	1,115	636,285	1,091	426,974	2,206	1,063,259
1866 † - -	856	522,825	1,040	427,031	1,896	949,856
1867 ‡ - - -	1,515	751,678	931 20,787§	443,148 1,367,702	23,233	2,562,528
1868 ‡ - -	1,327	621,545	716 25,457§	368,572 1,510,698	27,500	2,501,815
1869 ‡ - - -	1,372	663,160	851 23,235§	464,802 1,397,446	25,458	2,525,408
1870 ‡ - -	1,505	824,680	895 25,491§	503,050 1,508,706	27,891	2,836,436

* Includes transports during the war.
‡ Includes Canton and Macao steamers.
† Trade with India reduced.
§ Chinese junks.

H. G. THOMSETT, R.N.,
Harbour Master, &c.

LABUAN.

LABUAN.

No. 3.

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor BULWER to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 10.)

MY LORD, Government House, Labuan, October 31, 1871.

1. I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1870.

2. Some delay took place in the preparation of the returns, and they were unfortunately not completed in time to enable Governor Hennessy to make his Report upon them before his departure on the 2nd instant.

3. My recent arrival in the Colony prevents me from giving more than a brief summary of the principal points to be noticed in the returns

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY BULWER,
Governor.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 3.

SUMMARY.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the Colony amounted in 1870 to 7,158*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* It was mainly derived from *Excise Duties and Licences*, which were farmed out, on opium, spirits, tobacco, pawnbroking, ganja, and toddy. There was also a market farm.

These farms together yielded a total of 4,535*l.* during the year, showing an increase of 894*l.* over the revenue derived from farms during 1869.

A salt farm and a gambier farm which had existed in 1869 were abolished for 1870.

Another source of revenue was from the sale and rental of *Crown Lands*, which produced 409*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* To this may be added 159*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*, being amount received for the rent of houses and of other property of the Government. Under the head of *Reimbursements in aid of Expenses*, a sum of 1,420*l.* was received from the Oriental Coal Company, and others for convict labour lent by the Government. A further sum of 220*l.* was received from the Company in repayment of police expenses.

The total revenue for 1870 (7,158*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*) exceeded that for 1869 by 1,630*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*

The expenditure for the year was 7,301*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* It was greater than was originally estimated in consequence of certain expenses incurred for the suitable entertainment of the Sultan of Borneo, who, attended by a numerous retinue, visited the Island, remaining there eight days, and was received with every attention and honour by the Governor and the authorities of the Colony. Some expenses, also unexpected at the commencement of the year, attended the organization of a police force intended to take the place of the military and garrison.

Public Debt.

The Colony has no public debt.

Legislation.

Five Ordinances were passed during the year.

Ordinance No. 1 amends the law for the naturalization of aliens.

Ordinance No. 2 extends the practice of trial by jury in Labuan, and amends the Ordinance regulating the General Court.

Hitherto, trial by jury only took place in cases of murder. The present Ordinance makes it lawful in any case, civil or criminal, for the Governor to direct the summoning of a jury to assist the Court.

Ordinance No. 3 amends the Ordinance regulating the sale of opium.

Ordinance No. 4 authorizes the appropriation of a supplementary sum for the public service of 1870.

Ordinance No. 5 authorizes the appropriation of the sum of 7,688*l.* 5*s.* for the public service of 1871.

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Imports and Exports.

The total value of imports during the year is put at 122,982*l.*; that of exports for the same period at 61,218*l.*

The principal trade is with Singapore and the coast of Borneo. The chief articles of import for consumption in the Colony are attaps, rice, sugar, oil, salt, tobacco, padi, and provisions.

The chief articles of export, the produce of the Island or brought into the Island from Borneo for exportation, are beeswax, birds' nests, camphor, coals, gutta percha, India-rubber, hides, pearls, seed pearls, rattans, sago, tortoiseshell, and trepang.

Shipping.

Twenty-three vessels were entered at the ports of the Island for trade during the year, having a total of 8,917 tons. This return is given as exclusive of ships calling for coal, of men-of-war, and of native boats from the coast of Borneo and the Sooloo Seas, which numbered 1,082. It shows an increase over the return of the previous year, when 19 vessels, with a total of 6,972 tons, were entered for trade, besides 853 trading prahus from the coast.

Coal.

The quantity produced in 1870 is returned as 5,089 tons, against 7,155 tons in 1869.

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No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 16.)

MY LORD, Mauritius, September 18, 1871.

PREVIOUS to the departure of the Governor to Seychelles, his Excellency particularly requested me to send home the Mauritius Blue Book for 1870, because it refers to a period for the greater part of which the Government of the Island was under my personal administration.

2. The year that is past has not been marked with many characteristics worthy of particular remark. An examination of the different returns will, I think, leave a tolerably favourable impression of the general condition of the Island, gradually recovering from the melancholy prostration of several previous years.

3. In the early part of the year, great excitement and general uneasiness was created by the proposed scheme of underground

drainage for Port Louis, projected by the eminent engineer, Mr. Bazalgette. Public meetings were held, and the result was, that a deputation waited upon me with a petition to the Queen, which I duly forwarded with my Despatch, No. 31, of 26th July, 1870.

4. The General Board of Health had entirely disapproved the project of covered drainage, as being liable to generate noxious gases in this tropical climate, also so subject to storm-floods; and subsequent experiments, for which I have to thank the Legislative Council for providing funds, proved to demonstration that the project of discharging the whole sewerage of the town into the sea at the mouth of the Grand River, would run the risk of accumulating a deleterious mass of putrid filth, and of creating and reproducing malaria, as no regular current exists there to carry away the sewerage which might thus be deposited along the surrounding seaboard.

5. My reason for this conclusion is formed not only from facts arrived at by experiments, but also from a consideration of the laws of nature in these seas.

6. No one can have studied the physical geography of the oceans, without being aware that the great ocean current of the Southern Indian seas sets with occasionally exceptional regularity from east to west, so much so, that between Mauritius and Seychelles, in the vicinity of the Island of Agalega, in calm weather the ripple of a strong westerly current is strikingly observable, running at the rate of four or five knots per hour. Mauritius might therefore be likened to a rock set in the midst of a river stream, against the east coast and round both ends of which the current sets, causing on the lee or opposite side of the Island, an eddy, in which the west coast waters are partially embayed, and so a regular current to carry any floating substances clear of the land upon that side rarely occurs near the shore, the variation being only caused by violent storms and floods or exceptional tides, which seldom rise here above two or three feet at strongest springs.

7. The question has therefore since remained almost in abeyance, but I am happy to state that through the energy of the Mayor, Mr. Ducray, the Corporation have undertaken improvements which will certainly prove beneficial.

8. I have also the satisfaction of stating, that with the use of convict labour the Executive was enabled to reclaim and cover with several feet of wholesome earth many acres of a formerly pestilent lagoon adjacent to the harbour, which was a fruitful hotbed of malaria. The best results have accrued from this work, not only to the crews of the ships in the port, but also to the military barrack of Fort George, and the neighbourhood in general, the reclaimed land being now planted with young trees.

9. The Caudan Basin, another area of the harbour, formerly deep enough to float ships of heavy tonnage, had through a series of years of neglect, become filled with sewerage so near the sea level as to dry at low water. It has now been excavated to the depth of 12 feet by dredging, under the able and skilful superintendence of the Harbour Master, Captain Wales, at a cost of no large amount; and several wrecks of large ships which had sunk there many years ago,

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one of them a vessel of at least 1,700 tons, together with about 100,000 tons of unwholesome sewage deposit, were entirely removed; a baneful source of malaria has thus been taken from that once populous locality.

10. The visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, in H.M.S. 'Galatea,' between the 24th of May and 3rd of June, created an amount of enthusiasm unparalleled in the history of this Island. All classes, from the highest to the lowest, vied with each other in doing honour to the first Prince of the Blood Royal of England who had ever set foot upon the shores of this remote dependency of the Crown.

11. The two spans of the railway viaduct that were blown off the supporting columns by the exceptionally violent hurricane of 1868 were, after being thoroughly repaired, successfully put in place in the month of June, under the able superintendence of Mr. Connal, the Surveyor-General, and Mr. Mosse, the general manager. The immediate direction of this important task was confided to Mr. Scott, the present manager.

12. Notwithstanding that these two spans had fallen from a height of 120 feet, they were so strongly constructed that they were found to have sustained no important damage by the fall. The temporary wooden viaduct that was put up immediately after the accident served to convey the whole of the traffic of the Midland Line, whilst the other was being repaired.

13. During the progress of the late war in Europe, a serious apprehension existed for several months that the postal communication carried by steamers of the Messageries Impériales might be interrupted or entirely discontinued, and as these ships are the only regular means of intercourse, the Island would in that case have been entirely isolated. An Indian Company tendered for the service, but funds were not forthcoming. However, happily, the French Company has continued hitherto with its usual regularity.

14. In consequence of there being a considerable number of both French and North-German merchant ships in port during the war, I detained for three months H.M.'s corvette 'Cossack,' to ensure a better observance of the neutrality laws. * * * *

15. As might be supposed, the effect of the war was to raise considerably the prices of everything of French production, and as many articles of household consumption and of clothing are imported from France, the result was felt by the inhabitants generally.

16. Though the yield of the sugar crop was comparatively small, being only about 90,000 tons, owing chiefly to the scanty rainfall of the previous season, yet in consequence of the war the quantity exported to France, and indeed to Australia, realized exceptionally high prices, and thus fairly remunerated the producers.

17. In the latter month of the year much apprehension and uneasiness occurred in the minds of the population owing to the outbreak of cholera in Madagascar, from whence all the cattle used in Mauritius are imported throughout the open season. A largely signed petition was presented to me praying that all further communication with Madagascar should cease during the existence of cholera. As this would have been a measure of such questionable

policy, involving as it would, on parallel grounds, similar restrictions regarding India (from whence all the rice for the 250,000 Coolies is imported), and other countries liable to constant epidemics, I resisted it, but entirely restored confidence by considerably strengthening and exceptionally adding to the rigour of the laws of quarantine.

18. Happily no case of cholera occurred, though a species of cholerine existed, and a few cases were reported, some of which proved fatal.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

19. No new taxation was imposed during 1870.

Revenue and Expenditure.

20. The returns of revenue and expenditure show a surplus of revenue over expenditure, as was the case in 1869. It is true that this surplus was not very large, having been only 16,587*l.*

21. The revenue of 1870 exceeded that of 1869 by 13,000*l.*; and the expenditure of 1870 likewise exceeded that of 1869 by 16,000*l.*

22. The revenue has exceeded the amount at which it was estimated by 3,666*l.*

23. The increase of revenue has been principally in the item of Customs dues, which reached last year the highest figure yet attained. The increase was for duties on imports, there having been a slight falling off on exports on account of the short crop.

24. The new Stamp Law which came into force in 1869 has given a further increase of 3,000*l.* on the revenue of that year.

25. The mean revenue of the Island for the last ten years has been 576,596*l.*, with which amount that of last year, viz. 608,166*l.*, will compare favourably.

26. A comparison of the principal items of revenue with the mean of the last 10 years may prove interesting.

	1870.	Mean of last 10 years.
	£	£
Customs	218,697	183,379
Taxes	13,179	18,365
Licences and Permits	154,256	167,623
Stamps	12,734	8,126
Registration and Mortgage	20,171	26,868
Postage	5,034	6,715
Harbour Dues	20,683	27,790
Land	3,336	11,857
Fines and Forfeitures	14,416	17,094
Fees of Office	8,926	9,396

27. It will be seen that with the exception of Customs and Stamps the revenue of 1870 was below the average of the last 10 years.

28. The expenditure of 1870 fell short of the amount at which it was estimated by 3,266*l.*

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29. The increase in the expenditure of 1870 over that of 1869 is to be accounted for partly by payment of interest on railway debentures that was not made in 1869, and partly by the interest and Sinking Fund investments on account of the loan of 100,000*l.* for hurricane damages, which was effected in 1869. Also by extra expenditure on works, buildings, and bridges.

30. The average total expenditure of this Colony for the last 10 years is 594,576*l.*, whilst the expenditure of 1870 was 591,579*l.*

31. Compared with the average for the last 10 years the details of the expenditure of 1870 are as follows:—

	1870.	Mean of last 10 years.
	£	£
Salaries	206,364	205,123
Allowances and Contingencies	28,206	29,744
Pensions	14,198	13,700
Revenue Services	11,241	11,647
Administration of Justice	6,595	8,127
Ecclesiastical	2,421	2,285
Education	5,426	6,187
Hospitals	4,721	10,205
Police and Gaols	8,070	6,315
Rent	5,149	5,168
Transport	1,725	3,315
Mails	5,773	28,688
Works and Buildings	13,872	27,010
Roads and Bridges	16,592	21,740
Interest	10,596	13,504
Civil Stores	24,762	32,823
Military	27,848	36,956
Immigration	12,374	18,543

Enclosure 1. Report of General Manager of Railways.

32. The railway revenue and expenditure is not included in the above comparative statements, as the railways have not been open the 10 years. The results of last year show a very slight difference from those of the preceding year. There was a falling off in the quantity of sugar conveyed, occasioned by the falling off in the crop; but this was nearly counterbalanced by an increase in the quantity of grain, provisions for estates, and other merchandise that has been sent by rail. The working expenses have been still further reduced from 64·37 to 63·65 per cent.

Local Revenues.

33. The revenue of the Municipal Corporation was nearly the same as in 1869, whilst the expenditure was reduced by 3,300*l.* A new issue of debentures to the extent of 30,000*l.* was effected at par, whilst old debts to the amount of 31,400*l.* were extinguished. The cash balance in hand at the end of 1870 was 6,000*l.* larger than at the beginning of the year. The position of the Corporation may therefore be estimated to be improved by 7,400*l.* since last year. The debt of the Corporation is stated to be 138,000*l.*, equal to about three and a half years' revenue.

34. The revenue and expenditure of the General Board of Health, as compared with 1869, were as follows:—

	1869.	1870.
	£	£
Revenue - - -	8,770	10,153
Expenditure - -	7,668	8,210

35. The debt to Government still remains at 6,668*l.*, no portion of which was paid off last year. The new Sanitary Ordinance not having yet come into force, the revenue continues to be collected from the same sources and under the same system as before. A much larger revenue will it is hoped be received under the new law, the whole of which will probably be absorbed by sanitary improvements, which are much needed all over the Island.

36. The revenue and expenditure of the Poor Law Commission were respectively 28,059*l.*, and 27,310*l.*, leaving a small balance in favour of the Board. The loan from savings bank was repaid, and the outstanding debt of the Commission is 11,000*l.*

Military Expenditure.

37. The disbursements under this head for the internal protection of the Colony amounted, from 1st April, 1870, to 31st March, 1871, to about 60,115*l.*, deducting from which the amount contributed by the Colonial Government, viz. 30,739*l.*, would leave a balance of nearly 30,000*l.* to be borne by the Imperial Exchequer.

38. Upon laying before the Legislative Council the estimates for this year, I stated that in consequence of the reduction in the garrison of the Island, the sum estimated to be spent on the Australian allowance of 70*l.* for each man of the Artillery and Engineers, and 40*l.* for each member of the Staff and Line, was only 25,000*l.*

39. The majority of the Council, however, while not objecting to vote this sum, declined to engage the Colony to the payment of 45,000*l.*, as suggested by your Lordship's Despatch, No. 17, of 5th August, 1870, in the event of the garrison being increased to such an extent as to render the Colony liable at the above rates for such a sum.

40. The pro rata amount was therefore alone voted, and as they gave as a reason that they had no need of additional military protection, which, if at all, would be for Imperial and not internal interests, but that they had great need of more frequent postal communication with Europe, Asia, and Australia, which would require at least 20,000*l.* a year, and which already they could not afford, I am bound to admit there is a fair and reasonable ground of argument for the conclusion.

41. I may be permitted to say here, that under the present system, there is stationed in the Island a battery of Artillery, a weak company of Engineers, and a wing of an infantry regiment, whose other wing is in South Africa, with which there is no regular intercourse. In fact, as it is upwards of 1800 miles off, and the passage generally occupying more than a month in small comfortless trading brigs or

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schooners, with frequent intervals of three months and upwards, these wings are thus far more separated and estranged than if one was in England. This system injuriously affects the efficiency of a regiment. It might be remedied by employing instead, for Mauritius, a detachment of Royal Marines, who could be periodically and frequently interchanged with ships of war, if ordered to call here from the Indian, East Coast, and Cape stations. Men suffering from the pernicious effects of malaria would thus derive benefit from occasional change of climate, and the necessity would be avoided, as well as the expense, of such frequent invaliding and periodical relief of detachments of regiments; moreover ensuring to the Island the occasional presence of a man-of-war, so very desirable for a remote Colony entirely relying upon countries beyond the seas for every description of subsistence, and the ordinary necessaries of life, for its inhabitants of all classes.

42. I feel bound in candour, in writing under this head, to admit that a material portion of the expense incurred by the Imperial Government arises from the cost of Staff and Departments, which are sufficient for a force of at least 3,000 men, whereas between 400 and 500 alone compose the garrison, supposed to be sufficient for internal protection. In fact, if the European element of the excellent island police was augmented, a measure which I believe would be very popular, the protection of regular troops might be in some proportion reduced even more.

Public Works.

43. The expenditure on account of public works exceeded that of the previous year by 8000*l.*, though it fell far short of that of former years. The increased expenditure is to be explained by extensive repairs that had to be made to public buildings, as well as to bridges and roads that were damaged, and in some cases detroyed, by a heavy flood which occurred in April, 1870.

Establishments.

44. A further reduction of 2,000*l.* in the amount of salaries was effected in 1870, though if the allowances and contingencies be computed the total cost of establishments was nearly the same as for 1869.

45. The expenditure under this head for the last five years is here given in order to show the reductions that have gradually been effected.

	Salaries.	Allowances and Contingencies.	Total.
	£	£	£
1866	222,456	34,722	257,178
1867	215,762	28,607	244,369
1868	211,627	28,505	240,132
1869	208,883	25,721	234,604
1870	206,365	28,207	234,572

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Population.

46. The usual population returns show an increase of 5,709 over the total number of the resident population on 31st December, 1869; but the inaccuracy of the data on which these returns have hitherto been based, which has been alluded to on several previous occasions, has been signally demonstrated by the results of the census which was taken on the 10th April last. The total resident population on that date was 316,042, whilst the computations made on the basis of former years showed that on the 31st December last there were 328,633 souls, or 12,000 more than given by the census. Only the general results of the census are yet known, as shown in the annexed statement. A full report is being prepared by the Census Commissioner, who has carefully conducted his work, and will be forwarded when completed.

Enclosure 2. Statement (Census 1871).

47. Comparing, however, the results that are already known with the figures of previous years, it appears that the population of the Island has increased in the last decade by about 6,000, or 1·9 per cent., whilst in the previous decade the increase was 130,000, or 71·4 per cent.

48. The total number of births and deaths during the first decade was—

Births - - -	71,599
Deaths - - - -	82,994

The arrivals and departures of Indian immigrants were—

Arrivals - - -	188,020
Departures - - -	41,168

49. During the second decade the births and deaths were—

Births - - -	98,898
Deaths - - - -	138,016

whilst the arrivals and departures of immigrants were during the same period—

Arrivals - - -	57,324
Departures - - -	26,685

50. It will thus be seen that the increase of population during both decades is to be attributed to the introduction of Indian immigrants, the mortality having in each period exceeded the births.

51. The average annual death rate of the last ten years has been 43·35 per 1,000. If, however, the three years 1862, 1867, and 1868 be deducted, during the first of which epidemic cholera made its appearance, and during the two last, epidemic fever, the average annual death rate for the other seven years was 32·29 per 1,000, not a high rate, I believe, for a tropical climate. It must be remembered that the birth rate in this Colony is comparatively low, owing to the proportion of females to males being relatively small.

52. The immigration of Indian Coolies, without the existence of any legislative measure to assist the return of any portion of those who might be unable to pay their own passage at the expiration of their indentured services, still continues, and the Island is very rapidly

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becoming immoderately overstocked with a superabundant population, which if increased according to the scale of 1861, and but for the pestilence which fastened itself on the Island in the latter part of the past ten years, would have been now similarly increased, must eventually produce bitter fruits which may well be considered nearly insurmountable for the sanitary action of any Government.

53. In illustration of the overcrowded state of the Island it will not be out of place here to state that the recent census gives a population of 448 per square mile, whilst that of Great Britain and Ireland was computed a short time ago at 253 per square mile, and that of Belgium, the most populous country in Europe, at 430 per square mile.

54. It is true that the health of the Island in general was better in 1870 than for several years before; but this may partly, and probably in no small degree, be accounted for by the fearful epidemic of three or four previous years, when the aged, the infirm, the weak, and the sickly were swept away. But writing as I do after more than half of this year has passed, statistics show that we must not rely upon that improvement as at all likely to be permanent. On the contrary, the month of July last is proved to have had a greater amount of mortality than that of any month for the previous two years; and in the eastern and southern districts of the Island the death rate was double in April, and in May treble that of the corresponding months of last year, or 179 against 60.

55. But it is not alone the actual amount of mortality that is so remarkable, because it also appears that on one estate 400 out of the 500 men employed were attacked with fever in April and May last, and on another estate all the men, on a third, 43 out of 216 were sick in hospital on the 17th May; and, therefore, though I trust there must be ground to hope the Colony may eventually reapproach in some measure its former prosperity, I am afraid it would be fallacious to expect that, what with its present over-populated state—to which thousands are annually added—and with a malarial fever that has already so terribly proved what malignant power it can assume always lurking in an endemic form throughout the Island, it will be ever likely again to resume its once celebrated salubrity.

56. The total mortality of the Island was 7,426 during the past year, the lowest figure that has been shown since 1861. In 1867 when the fever was at its height the mortality attained to 40,114; in 1868, 18,403; in 1869, 11,295; in 1870, 7,426.

57. These figures show a great improvement. It must be again remembered, however, that nearly all persons of weak and sickly constitutions had been swept off by the fever, and that comparatively very few of that class were left at the end of 1869. Hence the mortality was naturally much lower in 1870. It cannot, however, be expected to remain long at the same low rate.

58. The death rate during the last five years is given as follows:—

	Per cent.
1866	3·24
1867	10·99
1868	5·29
1869	3·49
1870	2·25

59. Although these rates cannot be accurate, as one of the data on which they have been calculated, the amount of the population, is shown to have been wrongly estimated, yet they are sufficiently accurate to compare the mortality of one year with that of another.

60. The Officer of the Civil Status in his Annual Report attributes 44·8 per cent. of the total mortality to fever. I may, however, hazard the opinion that fever was not the sole cause of death in the whole of the cases which are attributed to it. It would seem not only to weaken and predispose the constitution to various diseases, but also to have a disposition to step in with other cases of sickness, possibly themselves of a sufficiently serious nature to cause death, but the symptoms of fever supplementing in such cases those of the original disease, the deaths are returned as occasioned by fever, which was no doubt the mortal cause.

Enclosure 3. Report of Officer of Civil Status.

61. The number of suicides was 66 as against 90 in the previous year.

62. The births in 1870 showed an excess of 3,731 over the deaths, and of 1,178 over the previous year. The total number of births for each of the last five years has been—

1866	12,134
1867	10,568
1868	9,436
1869	9,979
1870	11,157

63. Immigration from India during last year was on a larger scale than during 1869. The arrivals were 4,076 against 2,842 departures.

64. The proportion of females to every 100 males in this class of the population has risen from 48·88 in 1869 to 50·15 in 1870. The proportion of females to every 100 males in the total population was 63·39 in 1870.

65. The Report of the Protector of Immigrants appears to me to be satisfactory. He states that the mortality on sugar estates had fallen from 45·1 per 1000 in 1868, 30·2 in 1869, to 18·9 in 1870; that the number of deserters had diminished; that out of 76,921 men who engaged during the year, 31,461 changed masters, and 45,460 were re-engaged on the estates where they had been already employed; that 65,193 men were employed by owners of sugar estates, and 5,050 with job-contractors, and that the number of convictions pronounced against both masters and servants by the Stipendiary Magistrates had very considerably reduced, having been—against

Enclosure 4. Report of Protector.

	Masters.	Servants.
In 1868	7,733	14,875
„ 1869	3,936	8,152
„ 1870	2,507	4,954

66. The sums deposited in the Savings Bank by Indians were 21,716*l.*; the amount standing to their credit at the bank at the end of the year was 70,476*l.*, whilst the remittances made to India through the Immigration Office was 2,052*l.*

Enclosure 5. Report of Manager of Savings Bank.

Education.

67. The average number of pupils attending the Royal College in 1870 was 175, about 20 more than in 1869. The scheme introduced by the Rector about two years and a half ago, under which secondary instruction was to be entrusted to private establishments, associated with the College, the Directors of which undertook to follow the course of education adopted at this institution, in order that their pupils might be prepared to enter the same at a later period, has failed, owing to want of co-operation on the part of these establishments. A branch of the Royal College has, in consequence, been recently opened at Curepipe, in the centre of the Island and on the line of railway, where the classes will follow precisely the same studies as those at the parent establishment in Port Louis, whilst the parallel progress of the two establishments will be secured by monthly examinations, conducted by professors of the Royal College. A large accession of pupils is anticipated from the adoption of this step, as the master of one of the private schools has closed his establishment and entered the Government service as a professor. The greater part of his pupils will probably follow him to the Government school at Curepipe. The establishment of this rural branch of the College has met with the hearty approval of the public.

68. In the Government schools the number of pupils borne on the rolls in 1870 shows an increase of 11 per cent. over the previous year. The attendance in the Denominational schools had, on the other hand, slightly fallen off, partly owing to the closing of two of these schools. The Report of the Superintendent of Government Schools will be found amongst the annexures.

Enclosure 6. Report of Superintendent of Government Schools.

Administration of Justice.

69. The lamented death of the late Procureur and Advocate General, Jules Colin, which occurred in the month of July, led me, in providing a successor, who, from long experience of the Colony and eminent legal attainments, would probably prove the most perfectly qualified, to offer the vacant office to Mr. Justice Colin, a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court, who readily accepted it.

70. I was therefore enabled to secure not only an able and talented adviser for the Government, but to provide for the promotion of Mr. Gorrie, the Substitute Procureur-General and Ministère Publique, in accordance with your Lordship's Despatch, No. 15, of 4th August, 1870.

71. By these arrangements, moreover, the Colony was saved from being saddled with the expense of a fourth Puisne Judge, which had been advocated by petition from a portion of the legal profession, on the ground of principle, but considered unnecessary, as the three Judges of the Supreme Court had not more work than they could accomplish with promptitude and despatch.

Enclosure 7. Return of civil and criminal cases.

72. The usual returns from the Judges of civil and criminal cases dealt with by the Supreme Court are annexed. They do not call for any remarks.

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73. The Report of the Procureur-General on crime shows that the number, both of cases and of prisoners tried before the assizes in 1870, was, as in 1869, comparatively small. The decrease is attributed to the same cause as in 1869—viz. to the passing of Ordinance No. 11 of 1869, by which a wider jurisdiction was given to the district magistrates in criminal matters, which enabled them to try certain cases, of which formerly they could not have taken cognizance, and under which Ordinance, also, power was given to the Procureur-General to authorize such magistrates to entertain certain other charges.

Enclosure 8. Procureur-General's Report on crime.

74. Seven persons were found guilty of murder and attempt to murder, and ten of manslaughter. Of the latter six were charged with the graver crime, and the evidence disclosed at their trials was, in the opinion of the Procureur-General, sufficient to fully bear out the charge. Great reluctance, however, exists in the minds of jurors in this Colony to bring in verdicts that would carry with them capital punishment.

75. Only two prisoners were executed, the sentences of the others being commuted to twenty years' hard labour.

*Gaols and Prisoners.**

* Not printed.

76. The Returns of Gaols and Prisoners, and the Report of the Chief Medical Officer thereon, are satisfactory.

77. The total number of prisoners committed to all gaols was—in 1869, 26,489 males, and 359 females; 1870, 19,417 males, and 400 females.

78. The average daily strength of all prisons during the last five years indicates, also, a steady decline in the number, as will be seen by the following figures:—

1866 - - -	1,963
1867 - - - -	1,729
1868 - - -	1,681
1869 - - - -	1,651
1870 - - -	1,588

79. The Chief Medical Officer reports having frequently inspected the prisons and prison hospitals during the year, and having found them clean and in good order.

80. The proportion of sick per thousand of prisoners was 139·4 in 1870 against 160·3 in 1869, and 222·9 in 1868, whilst the death rate shows a still more marked improvement, as will be seen by comparing the figures of the last five years:—

1866 - - - -	3·44 per 1,000
1867 (epidemic fever) -	12·14 „
1868 - - - -	6·06 „
1869 - - - -	6·28 „
1870 - - - -	2·19 „

Poor Law Commission.

81. The President of the Poor Law Commission has sent in a Report on the working of the Commission for the six months ending 31st December last. This Report is intended to serve as a con-

Enclosure 9. Report of Poor Law Commission.

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necting link between the last annual Report, which embraced the period between 30th June, 1869, and 30th June, 1870, and the next one, which will be made for the year 1871, in order the better to admit of comparing with the estimates that are prepared for the current year, as well as to correspond as to period with the other annual Reports that are made by different heads of departments. The revenue and expenditure of the Poor Law Commission has already been alluded to in this Despatch. The Report does not seem to call for any further observation from me.

Juvenile Reformatory.

82. This establishment is conducted with great attention under the control of the Inspector-General of Police, who has reduced a large space of waste land into a highly cultivated and ornamental garden and farm, which supplies crops of vegetables not only amply sufficient for the wants of the lads in the establishment, but also leaves a considerable surplus for sale.

83. The lads are educated, taught industrial trades, and show much quickness and aptitude in their acquirement, and by such means, and the strict observance of discipline and cleanliness, they become in general very useful and in much request.

84. The reformatory may, indeed, in great measure be thus considered self-supporting.

85. I regret to have to add that the health of this institution still continues unsatisfactory, but the causes are not attributed by the Medical Officer to the locality, or to any defects of system, but to the worn-out, debilitated state in which many of the inmates were when they were brought there. Repeated attacks of malarious fever, coupled with privation of food and exposure, were the causes of this debilitated state, and the result was shown in malignant ulcers, which in many instances—particularly during the first months of the present year, during the hot weather—baffled, for a time, all the skill and care of the surgeon, and in most instances ended fatally.

Legislation.

Enclosure 10. Procureur-General's Report on Legislation.

86. 15 Ordinances and 41 Proclamations have been passed during the year.

87. The Procureur-General's Report on the legislation of the past year will supply general details of the year's work in this respect.

88. The most important measure passed during 1870 was Ordinance No. 11, the object of which was to provide a broad scheme for the proper administration of the laws which relate to the public health, and to create a fund for the purpose of carrying out the necessary works in connection therewith.

89. This Ordinance encountered great opposition in some of its details before the Council would decide upon passing it. Many of the members of that body united in condemning certain provisions, whilst they could not come to any understanding as to what other provisions should be adopted in place of those objected to.

90. The Ordinance has not, however, met with the approval of the Home Government, and certain modifications, principally relating to extreme powers which had been vested in the General Board of

Health, as well as in the scheme of taxation under which the necessary funds are to be provided, have been directed to be introduced before it is put in force. It is doubtful how far these amendments will meet with the support of the Council, and some time may still elapse before any benefit can be derived from the new law.

91. A law was also brought before Council, and passed in pursuance of directions received from the Secretary of State, to make provision for replacing Judges of the Supreme Court whenever by lawful recusation of any of them the legal quorum of Judges could not be obtained.

Imports and Exports.

92. The value of imports and exports (deducting specie) is given by the Blue Book as follows :—

	Imports.	Exports.
1869	1,619,906	2,601,657
1870	1,935,993	2,049,988

The true value of exports, however, may be put down at a figure considerably higher, as the sugar has been estimated by the Customs at about 18*s.* per cwt., whereas a statement carefully prepared by a sugar broker showing the monthly rates at which the different qualities of sugar were disposed of, gives an average of about 24*s.* 11*d.* per cwt. on the whole quantity exported, or 2,500,000*l.*, instead of 1,845,203*l.*, as given by the Blue Book.

93. The true value of the sugar exported during the last five years is given below, together with the quantities exported :—

	Tons.	Value.	Average price per cwt.
		£	*s.* *d.*
1866	124,000	2,650,539	18 6
1867	100,000	2,156,950	18 4
1868	99,000	2,143,166	21 10
1869	107,000	2,599,815	22 10
1870	102,000	2,549,881	24 11

94. It will be seen by this statement that the prices obtained for our produce have been gradually increasing, and attained a very fair rate last year.

95. I believe that at the same time the misfortunes which the Colony has had to encounter during the last few years have had the effect of introducing a wholesome amount of economy in the working of sugar estates, and that the costs of production of our staple have materially diminished.

96. I stated in my Report of last year that in consequence of the long and severe drought that had prevailed in the early part of the year the coming crop was expected to be only 100,000 tons. I regret to state that it only reached 90,000 tons. It must be remembered that in speaking of the crop, which begins in July, it is customary to estimate the quantity of sugar shipped from 1st August to the 31st July of the following years. The figures given in the preceding paragraph refer not to the crop, but to the exports

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of the year. The crop of 1868–9 was 78,000 tons, that of 1869–70 132,000 tons, that of 1870–71 was 90,000 tons, and the crop just commenced is estimated at from 120,000 to 130,000 tons.

97. Upon the whole I think I may fairly say that the condition of the Colony at the close of 1870, though far from equalling that of former prosperous days, shows nevertheless a considerable improvement over the four preceding years. The public health certainly suffered less from the endemic fever, and the sugar crop, upon which, after all, the commercial prosperity of the Island entirely depends, gave prospects of affording a fair average.

98. The financial condition of the Colony was also in a more satisfactory state than for several previous years, and gives expectation of being able again to secure the advantage of reserve balances, which fell off owing to the cost of constructing the railways and other exceptional causes.

99. It is true that the welfare of this community depends solely and entirely upon the cultivation of our single staple article of valuable produce. A bad sugar crop brings the Island for the time, apparently, to the verge of ruin, but so remunerative is a good one that public confidence rallies with singular elasticity. To guard against such possible failures, financial as well as social, must be always a difficult task for any Government in a country alternately suffering from destructive and dangerous hurricanes, from drought, from cane disease, and from pestilence.

100. A reserve balance to meet such recurring misfortunes and emergencies would no doubt in some degree assist in tiding over a bad year. And it must be hoped that the reductions in expenditure which are being gradually made, and the improved financial prospects of the Colony may at no distant time render it possible to amass such a necessary resource.

101. Of late years much of the soil that was formerly very productive in its sugar yield, has become, to the extent of many thousand acres, waste and unemployed. This applies chiefly to the low-lying lands on the northern and western districts of the Island; but whether it occurs from exhaustion of the soil, from improvident working of the estates, from scarcity of rain, or from these causes combined, may be a question open to discussion.

102. It is a strange phenomenon that the rainfall for several years past, though not on the whole much less in amount than formerly, is now confined in great measure to particular localities and the higher districts of the Island, instead of being general all over it as in former years, thus leaving many districts either entirely without, or with an insufficient supply for cane cultivation.

103. To replace the land thus rendered unproductive, hundreds of acres of the primeval forest have been recklessly cleared away; and by many it is believed that from that cause the climate of the Island has been injuriously affected, the temperature increased, and the humidity of the soil therefore correspondingly lessened.

104. Public opinion is so impressed that this is caused by clearing away of forest for sugar cultivation all over the Island, that an Ordinance was prepared early last year to amend the laws relating to the woods and forests and the rivers of the Colony; but the conditions were so generally disapproved by the Chamber of Agriculture and

the public, that a new one has been now brought under consideration to acquire land for replantation, and replacing portions of forest land, which appears to be more favourably looked upon.

105. I am, however, of opinion that to render the effects of such an Ordinance replete with permanent benefit and accuracy, a detailed survey of the Island is desirable, noting carefully all mountains, defining bases where possible, and where not, then taking the top of the mountain or accessible ridge rather as a point of description more easily defined than the base, showing the boundaries of estates, Government property, waste land, villages, settlements of Indian squatters, and so forth.

106. No work of that nature exists; the only tolerable map of the Island is taken from an old French manuscript imperfectly plotted in from a tolerably accurate triangulation made by Abbé La Caille during the French occupation, but deficient in fixed points.

107. No doubt a considerable portion of the natural forest still exists, notwithstanding the improvident rapidity with which of late years it is being annually demolished to seek virgin soil for the growth of canes; but the greater part of what now remains stands at such a high elevation, that its lower temperature and damp would render the land nearly useless for such purposes.

108. It has been advanced by some, and quite lately, to myself, though by strangers to the Island, that these waste lands might be usefully employed for the cultivation of cotton, coffee, spices, and such products; but anyone familiar with the tremendous hurricanes and the tropical deluges with which Mauritius is occasionally visited, must accept such theories as simply chimerical.

109. Consequent upon the gradual exhaustion of the land from long years' succession, with but little and exceptional variation on some estates, of sugar crops, it has been found necessary to resort to manures, to a somewhat immoderate degree, of guano as well as of the Inodore manufacture; and to this some attribute the partial deterioration of several varieties of sugar canes; but as many new descriptions have been imported from New Caledonia and other countries, it is hoped they may shortly prove productive with an improved system of agriculture.

110. But a serious consideration, from the effect of the land being thus saturated with an uninterrupted and increasing quantity of manure, arises from the fact that when soaked with water it festers under a tropical and periodically vertical sun, and especially from the higher plateaux after heavy rains, by a process of filtration; but more perhaps by the flow of surface streams, the ammoniacal essence of these substances is conducted into the rivers from whence the drinking water of the population is entirely derived, unimpeded, as might have been the case, by the roots of forest trees, by spongy mosses, and the luxuriant undergrowth.

111. Add to this, a further pollution of drinking water is caused by a superabundant Indian and coloured population of uncleanly habits, who have been permitted to locate themselves * * * * * * * * * * * *

with little attention to regularity or cleanliness. Twelve months and a day undisturbed possession of site, without payment of rent, gives

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right of tenure, without an expensive ejectment process before the Supreme Court. This has been taken advantage of by many who, having completed their indenture of service, are either unable or disinclined to return to their native country; and the system has existed for many years, is now difficult if even possible soon to remedy, and is fraught with future evil consequences to the public health.

112. It may also be noted that these rivers, the sole source of drinking water for the population, are also the general lavatories for every purpose of all classes, and it may then easily be conceived what organic matter and impurities must be imbibed in this country, where wells are hardly known, how injuriously the public health must be affected; nor can it be wondered at why the people stand in such deadly terror of cholera and other epidemic diseases.

113. To remedy this evil condition of things in an overcrowded tropical country, where, year after year and for a long series of years, though much has been said and written, but little has been really practically effected for good, would be now indeed a question of almost insurmountable difficulty. A vast reduction in the Indian population, numbers of whom have acquired a right of tenure by squatting, would perhaps be the plainest solution if it were practicable.

114. I am also persuaded that the position of this Colony has been, and will be still more affected in an important degree by the opening of the Suez Canal route, and the enormous use now made of steam power in the carrying trade of the Eastern Seas. That shorter, quicker, and safer route to the East must before long, with few exceptions, supersede the long and tedious track round the stormy Cape; and though Mauritius with its sheltered harbour and excellent graving docks, may possibly continue a refuge for some few ships to repair damage, it must be remembered that it has now a formidable rival in the splendid new breakwater and docks of Table Bay, and that it is no longer on the high road of the Eastern World, nor can it ever again become the important port of call of former years, lying lonely and isolated in the Indian Ocean, out of the track of all steamers passing by the future great highway of the Red Sea, through the Gulf of Aden towards Australia, the Bay of Bengal, or to the China Seas, through the Straits of Malacca or of Sunda.

* * * * * * *

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. SELBY SMYTH,
Major-General.

Enclosure 1 in No. 4.

(No. 116.)

Mauritius Railways, General Manager's Office,
Port Louis, March 1, 1871.

SIR,

Financial Report for 1870.

I have the honour to forward enclosed, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the usual returns* showing the receipts and expenditure of this Department for the year ending 31st December, 1870, as follows:—

* These Returns are not printed.

No. 1. A summary of traffic similar to that forwarded to the Board of Trade by Railway Companies in England, and presented annually to Parliament.

No. 2. A comparative statement of traffic for the years 1869 and 1870.

No. 3. Return of the receipts and expenditure for 1869 and 1870 as required by Acts 31 and 32 Victoria, cap. 119.

2. Referring to return No. 2, I would beg to call attention to the following points.

NORTH LINE.

Passenger Traffic.

3. The passenger traffic of this line, I regret to say, still shows a falling off as compared with previous years, the number of passengers, exclusive of season-ticket holders, conveyed in 1870, having been 342,102 as against 349,010 in 1869, or a decrease of 6,908.

4. This decrease may probably arise from many of the inhabitants who formerly resided in the proximity of the North Line stations having removed to the higher portions of the Island which the Midland Line traverses. This supposition appears to be borne out by the fact that there has been a large increase of passengers on the Midland Line during the past year.

5. The receipts from passengers on the North Line have in like manner decreased, the actual figures being 17,595*l.* in 1870 as compared with 17,720*l.* in 1869, or a decrease of 125*l.*

6. The receipts obtained from parcels, carriages, horses, dogs, mails, and miscellaneous items, were 1,612*l.* in 1870 as against 1,626*l.* in 1869, and the total passenger receipts in 1870 were 19,207*l.* as compared with 19,346*l.* in 1869, or a difference in favour of the previous year of 139*l.*

Goods Traffic, N. L.

7. Owing to the smallness of the sugar crop the tonnage of goods has fallen off during the past year, there having been a reduction of 9,057 tons of sugar, and an increase of 1,991 tons of general merchandise carried, as compared with the previous year, leaving a balance of 7,066 tons in favour of 1869.

8. The goods receipts have naturally followed the falling off in tonnage, the revenue in 1870 having been 17,340*l.* as against 18,975*l.* in 1869, or a decrease of 1,635*l.*

9. The total revenue on this line for 1870 has fallen from 38,321*l.* in 1869 to 36,547*l.*, or a decrease of 1,774*l.*

10. The receipts per railway mile per annum have declined from 1,236*l.* in 1869 to 1,179*l.* in 1870, and the receipts per train mile from 87·82 to 87·50.

MIDLAND LINE.

Passenger Traffic.

11. The passenger traffic on the Midland Line has increased largely during the past year, the number conveyed being 485,583 in 1870 as compared with 430,964 in 1869, or an augmentation of 54,619 passengers.

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12. Increased facilities have been extended to the public by attaching a composite carriage of three classes to goods trains.

13. The receipts from passengers have risen from 32,637*l.* in 1869 to 35,080*l.* in 1870, or an increase of 2,443*l.*, and there has been an advance of 401*l.* in favour of 1870 on the other items of passenger traffic, making the total receipts under this head 37,744*l.* as compared with 34,900*l.* in 1869, or an augmentation of 2,844*l.*

Goods Traffic, M. L.

14. From the same cause adverted to under this head on the North Line, there has been a falling off in the sugar traffic in 1870 as compared with the previous year, the actual tonnage being 20,219 in 1870 against 28,912 in 1869, or a decrease of 8,693 tons. This decrease has, however, been more than compensated by an increase of 9,666 tons of general merchandise conveyed during the past year, the total number of tons of this description of traffic having risen from 35,375 in 1869 to 45,041 in 1870, thus leaving a balance of 973 tons of goods conveyed in favour of the past year. The total tonnage conveyed was 65,260 in 1870 and 64,287 in 1869.

15. The goods receipts have not, I regret to say, kept pace with the increased tonnage, owing to the fact that the freight for general merchandise (or traffic from Port Louis) is much lower than the tariff charged on sugar from the estates to town, the revenue under this head having fallen from 22,846*l.* in 1869 to 22,192*l.* in 1870, or a decrease of 654*l.*

16. The total revenue on the Midland Line has risen from 57,746*l.* in 1869 to 59,936*l.* in 1870, being an increase of 2,190*l.* The receipts per railway mile per annum have increased from 1,649*l.* in 1869 to 1,712*l.* for the past year, and the receipts per train mile have risen from $9·00 in 1869 to $10·54 in 1870.

Summary of both Lines.

17. The statement under review shows the total increase or decrease of each item of traffic, so that it is not necessary to go into these in detail; taking the totals, however, the return shows that during 1870 the number of passengers conveyed was 827,685 as against 779,974 in 1869, and that the total receipts from passenger traffic were, during the same periods, 56,951*l.* and 54,246*l.* respectively.

18. Dealing in the same manner with the goods traffic, it appears that 120,128 tons have been conveyed in 1870 as against 126,281 tons in 1869, giving a revenue of 39,532*l.* in the former year as compared with 41,821*l.* in the latter. The total revenue from all sources of traffic has increased from 96,067*l.* in 1869 to 96,483*l.* in 1870.

19. The receipts per railway mile per annum have risen from 1,455*l.* in 1869 to 1,462*l.* in 1870, and the receipts per train mile were $9·14 in 1870 as against $8·49 in 1869.

20. The average mileage per passenger is the same as last year, while the average receipt per passenger has fallen off 1·55 per cent.

(owing to a decrease in the number of 1st and 2nd class passengers); there is also a slight decrease in the receipt per ton of goods carried in 1870, consequent on the falling off in the tonnage of sugar conveyed.

Train Mileage.

21. Whilst the traffic on the whole has increased during 1870, the train mileage has decreased from 226,303 miles in 1869 to 211,214 miles in 1870, or a decrease of 15,089 miles, and this of course accounts for the receipts per train mile being higher in 1870 than in 1869.

Expenditure.

22. The same return (No. 2) shows the expenditure in 1869 and 1870, the principal items of which are as follows:—

23. The expenditure on account of maintenance of way has increased from 11,503*l.* in 1869 to 12,646*l.* in 1870, caused by relaying portions of the Midland Line with steel rails, and other indispensable repairs.

24. The steel rails are answering our expectations. Engines furnished with steel tyres—as all upon the Midland Line are—do not suffer any diminution of their tractive force in ascending, or the trains display any tendency to accelerate their speed in descending, the gradients upon which steel rails have been laid down. As this coincides with the more lengthened experience obtained upon the Ceylon Railway, I have no hesitation in advising the gradual substitution of steel for iron rails upon the Midland Line. We are fitting upon each Midland engine, as speedily as possible, the Le Chatelier or counter-pressure break, which has already proved itself to be a valuable auxiliary.

25. In June last the Grand River temporary wooden bridge was successfully replaced by the rebuilt iron girders after a few days' interruption of the traffic.

26. The locomotive expenses have decreased from 25,292*l.* in 1869 to 23,528*l.* in 1870, in consequence of the amount expended for fuel and oil during the past year having been reduced, partly attributable to several cargoes of coals having been obtained at a low price, and partly to a reduced consumption per engine mile run.

27. The expenditure for repairs of carriages and waggons has increased from 3,553*l.* in 1869 to 3,721*l.* during the past year, caused principally by the waggon stock requiring more extensive repairs owing to increasing age, and by three ordinary composite and three third-class carriages having been converted into treble composite carriages; also by the building of one double-story carriage.

28. There has been an increase of 59*l.* in the traffic expenses for 1870 as compared with 1869, while the general charges have decreased from 4,898*l.* in the latter year to 4,056*l.* in the former. The special expenditure has also been reduced from 2,291*l.* in 1869 to 956*l.* in 1870.

29. An item for level crossings appears for the first time in this return, the expenditure on which has amounted to 1,959*l.* during the

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past year. To this heading is charged the wages of all gatemen at crossings and the expense of erecting huts for the same.

30. The total expenditure for 1870 was 61,407*l.* as compared with 61,839*l.* in 1869, or a decrease of 432*l.*

31. It is gratifying to remark that the total revenue has exceeded the estimated revenue by 1,683*l.*, and that the actual expenditure is less than that estimated by 8,743*l.* (this figure is obtained by taking credit for the 11,000*l.* voted for renewals of permanent way, in addition to the amount provided in the estimates).

32. The net profit for the year 1870 was 35,076*l.* as against 34,228*l.* in 1869, or an increase of 848*l.*, and is divided as follows :—

	£
North Line - - -	11,800
Midland Line - - -	23,276
Total - - -	£35,076

Accidents.

33. On October 1st a slight collision occurred at the Pailles Station between the 1.30 P.M. down mixed train and the 10.15 A.M. up goods train, through the carelessness of the pointsman turning the down train into the siding where the goods train was, when two or three passengers received slight contusions; with this single exception, I am happy to say, no passengers have received any injuries.

34. The train service has, I believe, been performed with regularity. The permanent way and works and the rolling stock have been well maintained.

35. It is gratifying to learn that the health of the staff has considerably improved during the past year, and that the mortality has decreased. Dr. Riccard has continued to display the same kind interest in the welfare of the staff that has invariably distinguished him.

36. It affords me great pleasure in testifying to the very efficient and cordial assistance that I have received from the heads of each branch of the service; without this, I need not remark that it would have been almost impossible for me to have carried on the combined duties of the general manager and locomotive engineer since July last.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) W. H. SCOTT,
Acting Manager.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c

Enclosure 2 in No. 4.

CENSUS, 1871.

STATEMENT showing the total RESIDENT and total POPULATION of MAURITIUS, comprising that of the outlying ISLANDS, the MILITARY in the COLONY, and the SHIPPING, HOME and FOREIGN, in HARBOUR, and distinguishing the POPULATION of each DISTRICT of the ISLAND. According to the CENSUSES of 1846, 1851, 1861, and 1871.

Districts.	1846.	1851.	1861.	1871.	Centesimal Increase or Decrease.					
					From 1846 to 1851.		From 1851 to 1861.		From 1861 to 1871.	
					Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
Port Louis	45,212	49,909	74,128	63,015	10·3	—	48·5	—	—	14·9
Pamplemousses	28,815	32,036	53,598	42,978	11·1	—	67·3	—	—	19·8
Rivière du Rempart	15,061	16,030	19,331	20,242	6·4	—	20·5	—	4·7	—
Flacq	19,182	24,186	41,468	49,499	26·0	—	71·4	—	19·3	—
Grand Port	16,756	19,082	37,207	44,226	13·8	—	94·9	—	18·8	—
Savanne	9,160	9,871	21,026	27,443	7·7	—	113·0	—	30·5	—
Black River	6,831	10,091	17,171	11,997	47·7	—	70·1	—	—	30·1
Plaines Wilhems	12,784	13,893	28,020	35,147	8·6	—	101·6	—	25·4	—
Moka	4,661	5,725	17,704	21,236	22·8	—	209·2	—	19·9	—
Flat, Gabriel, and Fouquet Islands	—	—	99	44	—	—	—	—	—	55·5
Shipping of the Colony	—	—	298	215	—	—	—	—	—	27·8
Total resident population	158,462	180,823	310,050	316,042	14·1	—	71·4	—	1·9	—
Military	1,801	1,524	2,350	706	—	15·3	54·1	—	—	69·9
Shipping not belonging to the Colony	826	1,159	1,062	321	40·3	—	—	8·3	—	69·7
Total population	161,089	183,506	313,462	317,069	13·9	—	70·8	—	1·1	—

MAURITIUS.

Enclosure 3 in No. 4.

Enclosure 3 in No. 4.

REPORT of the ACTING OFFICER of the CIVIL STATUS of PORT LOUIS, for the year 1870.

Population.

The estimated resident population of Mauritius on the 31st December, 1870, was 328,633, being an increase of 5,709 on that of the preceding year. The general population numbered 64,608 males and 53,389 females; the Indian, 140,283 males and 70,353 females. The proportion of males in the former class is 54·75 per cent., in the latter, 66·59.

The natural increase of a population is represented by the excess of births over deaths, and in 1870 the population of Mauritius gained 3,731 by such excess; equal to an increase of rather more than 10 per day. The excess of births in the general population was 1,532; in the Indian, 2,199. In 1869 the excess of births in the general population was only 352, and in the Indian the deaths exceeded the births by 1,668.

The birth and death rates are calculated on the mean population of the year, which is estimated at 325,304, viz. general population, 64,027 males and 52,879 females; Indian, 139,412 males and 68,986 females: the mean population of Port Louis having been estimated at 65,000.

Marriages.

The total number of marriages registered in the year was 702, of which 461 appertained to the general population and 241 to the Indian. These figures, however, do not give the sum total of all the marriages contracted in the year. A small section of the community, chiefly European, are satisfied with the religious ceremony of marriage, after civil publication of the banns, and such marriages, although equally valid, are not registered in the Civil Status Office, no returns of marriages celebrated by ministers of religion being received.

Births.

The total number of living births registered in the year was 11,157, being an increase of 1,178 over that in the previous year. The annual birth rate, 3·42 per cent., was the highest recorded during the last 10 years, with the exception of 1865, when it was slightly exceeded. The birth rate of the general population was 3·57, and that of the Indian, 3·34. The average annual birth rate in England in a period of 31 years is 3·37.

Compared with 1869, there was an increase in the number of births in every district, but it varied considerably. In Grand Port it was equal to 19 per cent.; in Port Louis, 17; in Pamplemousses and Plaines Wilhems, 12; in Black River, 9; in Rivière du Rempart and Savanne, 8; in Flacq, 5; and Moka, 0·7.

Sex.

Of the 11,157 children born, 5,662 were males and 5,495 females; so that to every 100 girls, 103 boys were born. There was an excess of male births, however, only in the general population. In the Indian there was an excess of female births, of rather more than 1· per cent. The proportions differ in the several districts, but in only two, Pamplemousses and Black River, is there a total excess of female births. In the district of Grand Port the sexes are equal. The greatest disparity in sex is observed in Rivière du Rempart and Plaines Wilhems, where the proportion of boys born to every 100 girls is respectively 108 and 107.

The births were most numerous in the fourth quarter of the year, and least numerous in the first. In 1869 they were most numerous in the third, and least in the first. In 1870 the births in the last six months exceeded those in the first half of the year by 58 per cent.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered in 1870, exclusive of those which belonged to the military, shipping, and dependencies, was 7,426, and the annual death rate was 2·28 per cent., a death rate that will compare favourably with that of many of the least unhealthy countries of Europe. It is not to be expected that so favourable a death rate can be permanently maintained. 1870 was an exceptional year, following closely on three years of terrible sickness and mortality, during which period a large proportion of the weak and aged succumbed, many of whom under ordinary hygienic conditions might have run a longer course, in due time adding their quota to the mortality of future years.

There was but little difference in the death rates of the two classes of the population, the death rate of the Indian being only 2 per 10,000 higher than that of the general population: nor was there any great difference in the relative mortality of the sexes. In both classes the female rate was higher than that of the male, and the difference was more marked among the Indians, which was scarcely to be expected, seeing how much more the males of that class are exposed to casualties than the females; but it must be remembered that the Indian female births exceeded the male births, which may in some measure account for it. The same inference however may be drawn from this apparent anomaly, as from the relatively high Indian birth rate, viz. that the Indian female element has been underestimated.

Deaths at Different Ages.

My last two quarterly Reports contained Tables showing the proportional mortality of both classes of the population at different periods of life. It would scarcely be fair to draw any general conclusions from the statistics of six months, but still it is impossible to avoid being struck with the large proportion of deaths among the Indian population at what may be regarded as the prime of life, that is between the ages of 20 and 40 years. The fact may be in some

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measure accounted for by the annual departure from the Colony of many Indians after the completion of their industrial residence. It is probable also that the ages of Indians are not always accurately ascertained and recorded. Thinking that a comparison with the rates of mortality at different ages in England might not be without interest, I have appended a tabular statement, from which it will be seen that the comparison is not unfavourable to Mauritius in regard to infant mortality, nor in regard to the proportion of deaths at different ages up to 20 years. But in the 10 years between 20 and 30 it is higher than it is in England in the 15 years between 20 and 35; and in the 20 years between 20 and 40, it is 7 per cent. higher than it is in England in the 35 years between the ages of 20 and 55. The proportional mortality at these ages is higher in both classes of the population, but relatively much higher in the Indian, especially between the ages of 30 and 40 years, where it will be seen to have attained the proportion of 20 per cent. of all the deaths. In each decennial period after the age of 50, the proportional mortality of Indians is consequently much lower than in England, very few deaths of Indians over 60 years of age being registered.

Port Louis.

The number of deaths registered in Port Louis was 1,905. Estimating the population of the town at 65,000, the annual death rate was 2·93. In 1869 the death rate was 4·46. This marked improvement, due in great measure to the improved state of the public health generally, may fairly be attributed in part to the successful efforts made by the Government and the municipality in improving the sanitary condition of the town, which in many respects is infinitely better than it was a few years ago. The general diminution in the mortality of the Island may also be ascribed in part to the fact that greater attention is paid to the wants of the poor, all of whom are now entitled to gratuitous medical relief, although it is to be feared that a large proportion neglect to avail themselves of the privilege.

Of the 1,905 deaths in Port Louis, 904 or 47·4 per cent. were caused by fever, the proportion being nearly 3· per cent. higher than in the rural districts, where it was 43·9. In the first quarter the number of deaths from that cause was 243, in the second, 312; in the third, 195, and in the fourth, 154. Of these total deaths, 53 were described as from intermittent fever, 17 remittent, 1 enteric, 9 malarious fever and cachexy, and the remainder as fever simply. It is probable that all, or nearly all, were modifications of the same disease. In ten public establishments in the town, in which an average of 1,916 men are employed, the annual death rate was 2·79 per cent. In the railway department, employing 1,010 men, there were only 4 deaths in the year.

Sugar Estates.

It appears, from the Reports of the two Medical Inspectors, Drs. Desjardins and Gouly, that notwithstanding the general prevalence of fever, the health of the men employed on sugar estates was satis-

factory, with one or two exceptions. Dr. Gouly reports that in the second quarter of the year fever had assumed a serious character at Petite Savanne, especially on one estate, the camp of which it had been found necessary to remove to a higher and healthier situation. The mortality on that estate had been heavy; 10 men, 2 women, and 6 children having succumbed. He subsequently reports that the change had been highly beneficial, and that the disease had almost disappeared. He described the disease as "having assumed the "character of Bombay fever."

In Pamplemousses the annual death rate (of the three quarters) among men employed on sugar estates, was 1·16 per cent.; in Rivière du Rempart, 1·61; in Flacq, 1·44; in Moka, 0·92; in Plaines Wilhems, 1·05; in Savanne, 1·48; in Grand Port, 1·01; in Black River, 1·25. It is not possible to calculate the death rate of the women and children, as their numbers are not given, but it is evidently less favourable than that of the men. In the first quarter of the year the number of deaths of men was 220, women 63, children 225. In the second quarter the number of men who died was 219, women 107, children 224. In the third, men 221, women 102, children 212. Total men 660, women 272, children 661.

A comparison with 1869 gives the following results: a reduction of 3,869 in the total number of deaths registered, and of 3,001 in the number of deaths from fever, equal to 34·2 per cent. in the first case, and 47·4 in the last. The improvement was general, but was most remarkable in the district of Flacq, where the total reduction was 50 per cent. In six districts it ranged between 30 and 33 per cent. In Grand Port and Savanne it amounted respectively to 21 and 13 per cent.

The highest monthly number of deaths registered in 1869 was 1,456 in April, the lowest 518 in November. In 1870 the highest was 721 in January, the lowest 521 in October, and the same in November.

In Port Louis the highest monthly mortality was 216 in January, the lowest 121 in September. In Pamplemousses the highest 104 in January, lowest 59 in October. In Rivière du Rempart, highest 43 in May and June, lowest 25 in October. In Flacq, highest 104 in January, lowest 70 in November. In Grand Port, highest 83 in January, lowest 48 in October. In Savanne, highest 76 in June, lowest 40 in January. In Plaines Wilhems, highest 93 in March, lowest 59 in October. In Black River, highest 37 in May, lowest 13 in September and October. In Moka, highest 42 in August, lowest 25 in May. Comparing the four quarters of the year, we find that 1,996 deaths were registered in the first, 2,062 in the second, 1,787 in the third, and 1,576 in the fourth. In 1869 the numbers were respectively 3,340, 3,961, 2,175, 1,819; a difference in the respective quarters of 1,344, 1,899, 388, and 243 in favour of 1870.

Causes of Death.

Fever caused 3,329 deaths, being 44·8 per cent. of the total mortality of the year. In the first quarter the number of deaths from that cause was 943; in the second, 1,029; in the third, 789;

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and in the fourth, 568. The variations will be found to correspond pretty closely with those in the mortality from all causes. For instance, in the second quarter there was an increase on the first quarter of 66 in the total number of deaths, and of 86 in the number of deaths from fever; in the third quarter a reduction on the second of 275 in the total deaths, and of 240 in the deaths from fever; in the fourth quarter a reduction on the third of 211 in the total deaths, and of 221 in the deaths from fever, from which it would appear that the mortality from all other causes does not vary considerably, and that the fluctuations in the death rate are in great measure due to fever alone. Table No. 5 gives the number of deaths from fever and from all other causes in each quarter of the year in the several districts, from which it will be seen that in the first quarter the number of deaths from all other causes (highest) was 1,055, and in the third (lowest) 998, a difference of only 57, whilst the number of deaths from fever in the second quarter (highest) was 1,029, and in the fourth (lowest) 568, a difference of 461.

According to the registered causes of death, dysentery, next to fever, was the most fatal disease, 720 deaths having been ascribed to that cause. How many of these fatal cases were complications or sequels of malarial fever, there are no means of ascertaining, but it is a significant fact that 54 per cent. of the total deaths occurred during the first six months of the year, and 61· per cent. of the deaths from dysentery. It must however be borne in mind that dysentery is always more prevalent during the dry months, when the rivers are low, and the water consequently less pure. Diarrhœa caused 127 deaths, and, like dysentery, was most fatal during the first half of the year, nearly 60 per cent. of the deaths from that cause having occurred in that period. There were 5 deaths from sporadic cholera in the year, 2 of which occurred at Flacq in the first quarter, and 1 at Savanne, 1 at Grand Port, and 1 at Port Louis in the fourth. A full account was given of the three latter cases in my Report for the quarter ending 31st December. There were 6 deaths from whooping cough, all of which occurred at Savanne. In 1869 the number of deaths from that cause was 31, of which 10 occurred at Savanne. Diphtheria and sore throat caused 52 deaths, 36 of which were registered in the first six months of the year. These cases were not confined to any particular districts, but were distributed pretty generally; only 4 were medically certified to have been cases of diphtheria, and they occurred, 1 at Port Louis, 1 at Grand Port, and 2 at Flacq. Five children died from croup, 2 in the first quarter and 3 in the second. In 1869 the deaths from these causes were, diphtheria 1, sore throat 44, croup 1. Deaths from diseases of the respiratory system generally, caused 424 deaths, against 480 in 1869. These diseases were most fatal in the last six months of the year, in which period 57·7 per cent. of all the deaths from those causes were registered. Diseases of the nervous system were also more fatal in the last six months, especially tetanus and infantile convulsions, which caused respectively 102 and 253 deaths. The number of deaths from tetanus registered year by year is very remarkable, and does not appear to be decreasing. In 1868 the number was 89; in 1869, 62; in 1870, 102. Only 7 of these deaths

were medically certified, and only 1 was described as a case of traumatic tetanus. Now idiopathic tetanus is by no means a common disease in other countries, and the causes of its frequency in Mauritius would form an interesting subject of inquiry. Tetanus however is confined pretty much to children of tender age in Mauritius, and may possibly be another name for *convulsions*. One death from hydrophobia was registered in the second quarter of the year at Flacq ; the case was that of an Indian boy aged ten years.

The number of deaths from phagedenic ulcers and hospital gangrene was 74 against 100 in 1869 ; of the former 19 occurred in the first quarter, 28 in the second, 19 in the third, and 8 in the fourth. 26 of these deaths were registered at Port Louis, 13 at Pamplemousses, 2 at Rivière du Rempart, 5 at Flacq, 10 at Grand Port, 2 at Savanne, 14 at Plaines Wilhems, 2 at Black River. A very large proportion of these deaths occurred at the civil hospital and the public institutions at Pamplemousses, Grand Port, and Plaines Wilhems.

119 deaths from the effects of childbirth were registered in the year, 27 of which occurred in Port Louis. Now as the number of child-bearing women in the year was 11,990, it follows that about 1 in every hundred died. In 1869 the proportion was still higher, but even now it is double the average of England.

The number of deaths from violence or accident amounted to 259, being a reduction of 64 on that of the previous year. The homicides were 10 against 15, the suicides 66 against 90. The suicides consisted of 59 Indian men, 1 Indian woman, 4 Creole men and 1 woman, and 1 Chinaman. 40 deaths were registered from drowning, 58 from burns and scalds, and 1 from privation. 18 of these deaths were registered in the first, 27 in the second, 24 in the third, and 30 in the fourth quarter of the year. The number of deaths registered, the causes of which were unknown, was 48.

C. F. EDWARDS,
Acting Officer of the Civil Status.

Enclosure 4 in No. 4.

Enclosure 4 in No. 4.

To His Excellency The Honourable A. H. GORDON, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Mauritius and its Dependencies.

May it please your Excellency.

I have the honour to submit my Report for 1870, appending to it various tabulated statements* setting forth the most important details connected with our immigration of that and the previous years.

2. The first of those statements shows that the following immigrants were introduced in 1870 :—

Immigrants introduced in 1870.

	M.	F.	Total.
From Madras - -	722	336	1,058
„ Calcutta - - -	2,109	909	3,018
			4,076

They arrived in 13 ships, 9 of which came from Calcutta.

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* The returns with this Report are not printed.

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Immigration of 1869.

3. The previous year's immigration had been as follows :—

	M.	F.	Total.
From Madras - -	903	379	1,282
„ Calcutta - - -	279	121	400
			1,682

Requisitions.

4. At the close of 1870, the numbers of immigrants remaining to be received on the requisitions yet unsatisfied were—615 from Madras and 1,226 from Calcutta. The number due from Madras is not stated to be larger, because numerous requisitions which had been sent to that Presidency, having lapsed, had to be struck out.

Recruitment at Madras.

5. Our agent at Madras, on being called upon to account for the tardiness with which the requisitions sent to him had been acted upon, has represented that he finds it extremely difficult to recruit emigrants under the instructions which he has received from our Government, and has applied for an increase of his powers.

He states that he is placed at a great disadvantage, relatively to other recruiting agents; first, because the rate of wages at which he is authorized to engage emigrants is lower than those proposed by other agents; next, because the agents for the French Colonies are allowed to give intending emigrants three months' pay in advance, whereas his advances are not allowed to exceed one month's wages; and, lastly, because they propose a free return passage to the emigrant after five years' service, whereas he is not permitted to make any such offer. His representations having been referred, in compliance with your Excellency's orders, to the Immigration Committee of the Council of Government, I need not allude to them any further in this Report.

Bombay Agency.

6. The slow progress of immigration from Madras led several planters to renew their endeavours to obtain labourers from Bombay. Our agent at that port, on being informed that it was thought desirable to bring his agency into active operation again, proposed to make up for the want of a permanent depôt on shore by employing ships as temporary depôts, and embarking his recruits as fast as they would present themselves. The scheme has been submitted to the consideration of the Government of Bombay, whose decision is now awaited.

Calcutta Agency.

7. Our Calcutta agent, although authorized to offer emigrants neither a higher rate of wages than our agent at Madras, nor larger advances of pay, nor any greater advantage in other respects, has succeeded in carrying out his requisitions very satisfactorily: not only have his requisitions been promptly executed, but the labourers dispatched by him have been well selected, and the expenses attending their transport have been restrained by him within the narrowest possible bounds. Yet, it is proper that I should state that from Calcutta as well as from Madras representations have been received that more favourable terms are proposed to emigrants by the other labour-importing Colonies than by ours.

General state of health of immigrants of 1870.

8. The general state of health of the immigrants who arrived in 1870 was very satisfactory. In no case was it found necessary to subject them to quarantine.

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Mortality at sea in 1870.

9. Three ships from Calcutta, and three from Madras, arrived without any mortality whatever. I think it right to mention their names, and the names of their commanders:—

Date of Arrival.	Ship.	Master.	Whence.
January 16	Alabama	Wm. Harrison	Calcutta.
June 22	Allum Ghier	W. Williams	"
October 5	Nimrod	J. Bullock	"
March 7	Inverdruie	James Peter	Madras.
June 11	Palmyra	Thomas Halbert	"
September 7	Charmian	C. E. Stewart	"

In the other vessels the total mortality was 23 deaths from Calcutta, and 1 from Madras; which only gives a ratio of $\frac{58}{100}$ per cent.

Mortality in Indian emigration to the West Indies in 1869.

10. This ratio of deaths stands in favourable contrast with the mortuary rates in emigration from India to the West Indies.

The latter were as follows in 1869:—

In ships despatched to

British Guiana	4·80 per cent.
Trinidad	1·82 "
Jamaica	2·58 "

Mortality in ships of 1870 compared to that of previous years.

11. The mortality in our own immigrant vessels in 1870, compared to that of the two previous years, is as follows:—

1868	·88 per cent.
1869	·41 "
1870	·58 "

Proportion of females.

12. The proportion of females to males in the immigration of the year was—

From Madras	43·1 per cent.
" Calcutta	46·5 "
In total number introduced	43·9 "

Cost of introduction of immigrants.

13. The average amount of the employer's share of the cost of introduction was—

	£	s.	d.	
From Calcutta	9	5	9	per male adult.
" Madras	9	14	9	

Departures of 1870.

14. The departures of the year were as follows:—

	M.	F.	Total.
For Madras	268	102	370
" Calcutta	1,359	301	1,660
" Bombay	321	166	487
" Other Places	224	101	325
	2,172	670	2,842

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Departures of previous years.

15. The total departures of the three previous years were—

	M.	F.	Total.
In 1867 - - -	2,571	827	3,398
1868 - - - -	1,880	664	2,544
1869 - - -	1,684	636	2,320

Proportion of females in emigration.

16. The proportion of females to males in the emigration of 1870 was 30·84 per cent.

Arrivals and departures since 1834.

17. The arrivals and departures of Indian immigrants since 1834 are given in the Appendix marked D; which shows that since the introduction of labour from India was first resorted to no less than 374,450 immigrants have been thence brought over; and that 100,350 have returned to their country after having gone through various periods of service.

Outlines of the history of our immigration.

18. I should have wished to submit to your Excellency a complete retrospect of our immigration since its commencement, following it step by step through all its phases; but the various other labours to which I have now to attend forbid my going beyond the mere outlines of its history.

First period.

The labour-market of India was first looked forward to by our planters when the abolition of the slave trade became a certainty.* The first Indian labourers were introduced in 1834. The measure was regarded by many with great misgivings as to its success. The character of the Indian and his fitness for agricultural labour had yet to be studied: the first trials of Indian immigration were therefore very limited and hesitative. But it soon became apparent that labour could be drawn from no better source; and before the middle of 1839 no less than 25,287 immigrants were thence introduced.

Second period.

On the 29th May, 1839, emigration from Calcutta to Mauritius was suspended by the Governor-General of India, on the ground that the protection afforded to emigrants by the regulations then in operation was insufficient. It is undeniable that there were good reasons for imposing further checks upon the various operations involved in the recruitment of emigrants and their conveyance to this Colony. The interference of Government had until then been confined to the delivery of a "*special licence*" to any person who volunteered to undertake those operations. There being no further control, abuses arose which it became imperative to stop. The interval between 1834 and May, 1839, may be considered as forming the first period of our immigration.

The second period may be taken to begin on the 2nd December, 1842, when emigration from India was reopened to us under a systematized governmental superintendence, and to come down to the 25th November, 1856, when another suspension was decreed by the Government of India. The reason assigned for this second interdiction was that our quarantine stations were not in an efficient state.

Third and fourth periods.

Up to the 31st March, 1844, the introduction, though controlled, was left to private individuals without any limitation as to the numbers to be introduced; and a bounty was paid to the introducer

* The total negro population, at the time of the emancipation of slaves, was estimated to amount to 61,000 souls; of which number about 28,000 were considered to form the effective staff of the agricultural labourers in the Colony.

for every immigrant landed: this was termed the *Bounty System*. It was superseded in March, 1844, when the whole of the operations connected with immigration were taken under the direct supervision and management of Government. The number to be introduced annually was thenceforward fixed by the Council of Government: this was called the *Contingent System*.

The second interdiction was removed by the Government of India on the 22nd April, 1857. The interval between that date and the 30th November, 1858, when the contingent system was abolished and rules were established for allowing contracts of service to be entered into in India, may be looked upon as the third period; and the fourth may be considered as extending thence down to the present time.

Since November, 1858, (beginning of the fourth period) the introduction of labour has been freed from the arbitrary restrictions to which it had previously been subjected. Instead of introducing annual contingents which might either exceed, or be insufficient to satisfy the actual requirements of the Colony, all persons in need of labour have been left free to indent for any number of immigrants they wish to receive, provided they furnish good security for the payment of the cost of introduction, except one-half of the passage-money of females, which has been made chargeable to the public funds;* and provided also that they satisfy Government that they are in a position to carry out all their engagements towards the immigrants for whom they apply.

By Ordinance No. 16 of 1862, which came into operation in April, 1863, an important change was made in the system inaugurated in 1858; the first contract of service of the immigrant was made co-extensive with his industrial residence. Under the law previously in force, the immigrant, though bound to serve for five years, was only engaged to his first employer for three-fifths of that time: he was free to spend the remainder under other employers of his choice; these becoming liable to refund to his introducer a portion of the cost of introduction equivalent to the residue of industrial residence which had to be gone through.

Increase of Indian population.

19. The total Indian population in the Colony at the close of each of the two last years was as follows:—

	M.	F.	Total.
1869 - - -	138,883	67,888	206,771
1870 - - -	140,283	70,353	210,636
Increase -	1,400	2,465	3,865

Increase of general population.

20. There has likewise been an increase in the general population.

	M.	F.	Total.
1869 - - -	63,604	52,549	116,153
1870 - - -	64,608	53,399	118,007
Increase -	1,004	850	1,854

* As the proportion of females to males which the present regulations require is 50 per cent., or *one-third* of the total number introduced, the proportion of the cost of introduction devolving on the public treasury is *one-sixth*.

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The increases in both sections of the population are due to the arrivals having exceeded the departures, and to the births having outnumbered the deaths.

Proportion of females to males in the Colony.

21. Whereas the proportion of males to females remained nearly stationary in the general population, the percentage having only changed from 82·61 in 1869 to 82·63 in 1870, in the Indian population it rose from 48·88 at the end of 1869 to 50·15 at the close of 1870.

In the total population the proportion of females to males was 60·39 per cent.

Deaths in the Colony during the last three years.

22. The deaths of the year were as follows:—

	M.	F.	Total.
In Indian population - -	3,081	1,687	4,768
„ General „ - -	1,451	1,207	2,658
Totals - -	4,532	2,894	7,426

Those of the two previous years are shown by the following figures:—

	Indian Population.	General Population.	Total.
1868 - -	12,186	6,217	18,403
1869 - -	7,926	3,369	11,295

Rates of mortality.

23. The millesimal ratio of deaths has considerably declined:—

Ratio per 1000.	1868.	1869.	1870.
In Indian population - -	55·1	36·9	22·1
„ General „ - - -	51·0	28·1	22·0
„ Total „ - -	53·6	33·7	22·0*

The formula taken for the computation of these ratios is that which I explained in my last Annual Report.

Number of sugar estates.

24. The last half-yearly reports of the Stipendiary Magistrates show that the number of sugar estates is now reduced to 215.

Population of estates.

25. The population of those estates was as follows at the end of 1870:—

	M.	F.	Total.
Above the age of 10 years:—			
Indian immigrants - -	66,792	22,406	89,198
Creoles - - - -	3,043	2,945	5,988
Africans and others - -	408	101	509
	70,243	25,452	95,695
Children under 10 - - -	12,839	12,923	35,762
Total population -	83,082	38,375	121,457

Decrease in population of estates.

26. These figures, compared to those of 1869, show a considerable decrease in the population of the estates, amongst the males. The falling-off is as follows:—

* The mean annual rate of mortality in England, from all causes, was 22 per 1000 in 1868. It had been 2-10ths higher in the preceding quinquennial period.

Male population of 1869 - - -	84,679
Decrease at end of 1870 - - -	1,597

It is clear that there have been large withdrawals from the sugar estates. Hence the present tendency to a rise in wages, and to increased demands for new immigrants.

Classes of population non-resident on sugar estates.

27. The population of the island having increased while that of the sugar estates has diminished, it follows that the classes non-resident on those estates have had their numbers strengthened. The census about to be taken will show what their pursuits are, and how many persons are engaged in each different occupation.

Mortality on sugar estates since 1868.

28. The mortality on sugar estates fell from 3,701 in 1869, to 2,352 in 1870. The ratio has been declining as follows since 1868:—

1868 - - -	45·1 per 1000
1869 - - - -	30·2 „
1870 - - -	18·9 „

Sickness on estates.

29. The daily average number of sick treated in the estate hospitals of each district during 1869 and 1870 is shown in Appendix G, which is based on returns received by me from the Medical Inspectors. The total average number under treatment per day is reported to have been 195 in 1869 and 146 in 1870.

No correct inference can be drawn from these figures as to the general state of health of the population of the estates, nor can any right conclusions be grounded on the details of the Medical Inspectors' returns as to the relative healthiness either of the estates or of the districts. As many of the sick decline going to the hospitals, the hospital registers do not show the whole amount of sickness on each estate, but merely the cases which have undergone hospital treatment.

Camps and hospitals.

30. The state of the camps and hospitals is reported to be as follows:—

	Camps.	Hospitals.
Very good - - - - -	9	12
Good - - - - - -	183	171
Tolerable - - - - -	13	16
In need of repairs and alterations -	4	8
Bad - - - - - - -	5	1
Very bad - - - - -	1	0

Those which were not in a satisfactory state were ordered to be set aright. I propose to ascertain by personal inspections whether their defects have been removed.

Absenteeism.

31. The daily average number of absentees on all the estates taken together, amounted to 5,801 in the last half-year of 1870; it was 6,003 in the corresponding period of 1869; and 7,235 in 1868.

Deserters.

32. The number of deserters remaining unarrested continues declining:—

	Deserters unarrested.
End of 1868 - - -	2,649
„ 1869 - - -	2,376
„ 1870 - - -	1,613

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The returns do not show how many of the deserters of each of these three years deserted within the year, and how many were old deserters. A printed form requiring information on those points has been addressed to the planters, so that the progress or decline of desertion may be better ascertained in future.

Arrears of wages.

33. Thirty-one estates owed arrears of wages exceeding two months. The arrears due were as follows:—

No. of Estates.	No. of Months.
24	3
6	4
1	5

The magistrates have been requested to ascertain and report whether those arrears have been paid up; and whether any, and if so what, arrears have accumulated on those estates since the end of last year.

Rates of wages and allowances.

34. The present average rates of wages and allowances of agricultural labourers and of domestic servants, artisans, and tradesmen, are shown in Appendix H.

The present average rate of wages of old immigrants, compared to the mean rate at the end of last year, exhibits an increase of nearly two shillings. There is a tendency to a still further rise, due to the decrease which I have already pointed out in the labouring population of the estates, and to the insufficiency of the present immigration to keep the labour market adequately supplied.

Appendix I.

The Government scale of wages and allowances has remained unaltered since December, 1868.

Engagements.

35. The number of engagements passed between labourers and employers, and the rates at which they were passed, are shown in Appendix J. 76,921 men were engaged; 31,461 changed masters; 45,460 re-engaged on the estates where they had already been employed.

Appendix E shows that 65,193 men were engaged by proprietors of sugar estates, and 5,050 by job contractors.

Indo-Mauritians.

The number of men who engaged themselves comprised 3,004 Creoles of Indian origin. This class of Indo-Mauritians is fast increasing; and it is a fact worthy of notice that very few of them leave the Colony.

Length of contracts.

36. The periods for which the engagements of 1870 were contracted were as follows:—

	No. of Men engaged.
Less than one year	4,877
One year	53,353
Eighteen months	12,300
Two years	4,113
Three „	1,990
Five „	288
Total	76,921

Cases tried by the Stipendiary Magistrates.

37. If the number of cases in which the Stipendiary Magistrates are appealed to for the redress of grievances can rightly be taken as a

criterion; the mutual relations between masters and servants have very much improved. The convictions pronounced in the Stipendiary Courts during the last three years, in matters between masters and servants, stand as follows:—

	1868.	1869.	1870.
Against Servants - -	14,875	8,152	4,954
„ Masters - - -	7,733	3,936	2,507

The convictions have fallen to *one-third of what they amounted to in* 1868, both in proceedings against masters and in complaints against servants. This decrease of litigation on both sides undeniably indicates a healthier tone in the intercourse between labourers and their employers.

Non-payment of wages.

38. The numbers set against masters comprise the following awards on complaints for non-payment of wages:—

	Convictions.
1868 - - -	5,832
1869 - - - -	3,518
1870 - - -	2,031

I am happy to be able to report so marked an improvement in this respect likewise: it leads me to hope that greater regularity in the payment of wages will be obtained in future.

Indians convicted in the Supreme Court.

39. Appendix O shows the number of Indians convicted in the Court of Assizes during the last five years. The cases of murder and manslaughter increased from 7 in 1869 to 16 in 1870; but the total number of commitments (under all charges) was nearly the same: 58 in 1869; 59 in 1870.

Convictions in all the Criminal Courts.

40. The convictions of all the Criminal Courts of the Colony, in 1870, are given in the next statement (Appendix P). They were as follows:—

	M.	F.	Total.
Indians - - -	6,419	135	6,554
Others - - -	1,326	89	1,415

The proportion of the number of individuals convicted under the criminal law to the total amount of each section of the population was as follows:—

Percentage.	
3·1 - - -	In Indian population.
1·1 - - - -	„ General „

Suicides.

41. The Acting Officer of the Civil Status of Port Louis having brought to notice numerous suicides, chiefly committed by Indians, in 1868 and 1869, the attention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies was drawn to that subject, and in consequence of his Lordship's instructions I have been directed to make inquiries in regard to that matter. I have called for returns from all the Officers of the

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Civil Status exhibiting the number of suicides registered by each of them, with such particulars as it is in their power to report.

They show the following details:—

Persons who committed suicide in 1870:—

	M.	F.	Total.
Indians - - -	56	3	59
Creoles - - -	5	1	6
Chinese - - -	1	0	1
Europeans - - -	1	0	1
	63	4	67

The Acting Officer of the Civil Status of Port Louis has reported the suicides of 1868 and 1869 to be as follows:—

1868	Indians - - -	61	64
	Others - - - -	3	
1869	Indians - - -	89	90
	Others - - - -	1	

In the Indian population there have therefore been 30 suicides less in 1870 than during the previous year.

Inquests recommended.

42. Satisfactory as it is to see that the number of individuals who destroyed themselves last year was so much smaller, comparatively to the previous year, I think it advisable that a special inquest be held in future on the occurrence of every case of suicide, so that all the circumstances of each case may be fully investigated and brought to light; and I should beg of your Excellency to direct that a copy of the report be sent to me by the magistrate who has made the inquiry whenever the deceased is an Indian immigrant.

Ratio of suicides compared to that of other places.

43. The ratio of the suicides in this Colony was as follows:—

In Indian population - - -	280 per million.
„ General „ - - -	67 „

It would have been interesting to know how these rates stand comparatively to those of India; but the data procurable from India are scanty and incomplete. The Administration Report of Madras for 1868–69 states that the suicides recorded in that Presidency in 1868 amounted in all to 1,300—which number would represent a proportion of 54 per million to the estimated population of the whole Presidency.

That would be less than one-fifth of the proportion of suicides in our Indian population in 1870, and even lower than the ratio in England —which was 70 per million in 1868, and a little more than 64 per million in the previous five years taken together.

But as the same Administration Report of Madras, further on, describes the system of registration of births and deaths as working unsatisfactorily in that part of India, and plainly states that "*regis-*
"*tration, without any doubt, is largely evaded,*" it is assumable that the number of suicides registered in the provinces of Madras is much below the reality.

My knowledge of the character of Indians leads me to the belief that they are, in general, more addicted to self-murder than Europeans; and that suicidal propensities are neither weaker, nor, proportionally to population, more seldom met with in India than here.

I am inclined to think that if the characteristics of the Indian felo-de-se were studied, if the feelings and impulses under which he generally comes to the resolution of parting with life were watched, they would be found to differ from what characterizes the generality of self-murderers in Europe. I merely point to the inquiry as one which, in all probability, would tend to account for the much heavier ratio of suicides in our Indian population than in the population of England. The special inquests I have recommended would serve to show whether there are any other causes which might be considered as purely lo al, and not attributable to ethnological or physiological differences.

Proportion of females to males in suicides.

44. The suicides of females contrasted with those of males show the following differences of proportion:—

	Proportion of Females to Males.
Madras, 1868 - - - - -	151·0 per cent.
England, 1868 - - - - -	35·0 „
Mauritius, 1870, in Indian population -	5·3 „

It is difficult to account for differences so great without further investigation into their causes; but it is evidently desirable that every endeavour should be used to ascertain as far as possible what those causes are.

I have no doubt that the smallness of the proportion in this Colony is chiefly ascribable to the females of our Indian population being, comparatively to the females of their classes in India, far better provided for, and therefore less inclined to self-murder.

General condition of immigrants in the Colony.

45. Of the general condition of the immigrants in the Colony I have no hesitation in reporting favourably. Individual grievances have sometimes to be inquired into and redressed; our laws regulating labour still need amendments; our system of governing immigrants is not wholly free from imperfections; yet, on the whole, I think I may confidently affirm that the condition of the immigrant labourer in Mauritius is decidedly happier than that of the generality of labourers of his class in India.

Savings and remittances.

46. The sums deposited by Indians in the Savings Bank during the years 1869 and 1870 were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1869 - - -	21,999	12	11
1870 - - - -	21,716	13	4

The amount standing to the credit of Indians in the Savings Bank at the end of each of the last two years was—

	£	s.	d.
In 1869 - - -	69,032	8	$5\frac{1}{2}$
„ 1870 - - -	70,476	12	$1\frac{1}{2}$

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Their remittances to India through the Immigration Office were as follows:—

To Calcutta - -	16,818	rupees.
„ Madras - - -	2,590	„
„ Bombay - -	1,120	„
Total - -	20,528	

Laws of 1870 directly concerning Indian immigrants.

47. Of the laws passed in 1870 the two following most directly concern Indian immigrants.

1. Ordinance No. 11.—To amend the laws relating to public health.

2. Ordinance No. 12.—To punish the enticing away and harbouring of wives of Indian immigrants.

By the former it was intended to impose a tax on all immigrants, old or new, engaged or unengaged, in the same manner as on the rest of the community, for the sanitary government of the Colony. The principles of this Ordinance need not be further adverted to here, as it has not been confirmed by Her Majesty, and has to be recast.

Ordinance No. 12, besides providing a penalty against the enticing away or harbouring of wives of Indian immigrants, empowers district magistrates to compel a wife who is a native of India, and has deserted her conjugal domicile, to return to it. The power of coercion so granted to district magistrates is, however, carried no further: the wife, if she desert again, is simply exposed to a renewed attempt on the part of the magistrate to bring about a reconciliation between her and her repudiated husband.

A more substantial improvement is provided in a clause which enacts that district magistrates shall have jurisdiction to entertain claims for alimony instituted by deserted wives. This power was formerly invested in the Supreme Court, to which the wives of immigrants, those especially who, being deserted by their husbands, are consequently penniless, have practically no access whatever.

Amendments desirable in existing laws.

48. It appears to me to be very desirable that the jurisdiction of district magistrates be still further enlarged in matters relating to marriage. While, on the one hand, they are called upon to use their utmost endeavours to impress upon Indians a reverence for the marriage tie, and a proper sense of the duties and obligations consequent on the marriage contract, I think that, on the other, when there exist valid grounds for a separation from bed and board, or a dissolution of marriage, they should be vested with the power of decreeing it.

The colonial laws do provide remedies for cases in which a judicial separation or a divorce is justly claimable; but those remedies are placed entirely beyond the reach of the poor. It thence follows, that unions which there exist good grounds to put an end to are often forcibly prolonged until they give rise to unfortunate consequences, sometimes even to crime—or that they are broken without the sanction of the law, and replaced by concubinage and its train of demoralizing results.

49. In my last Annual Report I submitted it to be my opinion

that although our legislation concerning labour had in many respects proved very beneficial, there were several questions involved in it which required further consideration and probably further action on the part of the Legislature. Subsequent experience has confirmed and strengthened the opinion which I then held. On some of the points to which I referred I am not now wholly prepared to enter, but to the following I think it my duty to make reference without any further procrastination.

The restrictions set on free labour have, in my opinion, been carried too far. The limit to which they should be extended ought, I think, to be considered—so that while a proper check is laid on vagrancy, no undue restraint should be cast on the exercise of honest industry.

As the rules imposing those restrictions weigh exceptionally on one single class of the community—the class of old immigrants—it is undeniably just and proper that every relaxation of those rules consistent with public order should be conceded to them as soon as possible.

Amendments suggested to be made in labour regulations now in force.

50. The amendments which I consider to be necessary in the regulations now in force are the following:—

(1.) That every old immigrant who is the holder of a licence authorizing him to carry on any business, trade, or profession, should be exempted from the obligation imposed on old immigrants by Regulation No. 56 (that of paying for a day-labourer's licence if he work by the day).

(2.) That the fee imposed on the old immigrant who is a day-labourer, by Regulation 78, should be reduced from 1*l.* to 10*s.* per annum.

(3.) That old immigrants who have paid for hawkers' or carriers' licences should be placed quite on a par with all other hawkers and carriers as to the liberty of proceeding from one district to another.

(4.) That every old immigrant who is not under written engagement, and changes his abode or occupation within the district of his domicile, should be allowed at least 48 hours to declare the change to the Police Office of his district.

(5.) That old immigrants who are not under engagements (verbal or written) should be free to go and visit their friends in other districts, or to proceed to other districts on business, provided they do not absent themselves more than ten days from the district in which they are domiciled, without having previously obtained the permission mentioned in Regulation 45, or given notice to the principal police officer of the district in which they so prolong their stay.

(6.) That police passes, when renewed because they are torn, soiled, or so much written upon as to have no space for further entries, be issued free of charge.

(7.) That the power of exempting an old immigrant from the payment of a fee on any police pass be extended to the Protector of Immigrants.

(8.) That the power of authorizing any old immigrant to go and reside in a foreign district for a specified time, be extended to the Protector of Immigrants and to the stipendiary magistrates.

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(9.) That every police pass applied for by an old immigrant who is entitled to receive it should be delivered to him without any delay or postponement, provided the application be made between 8 A.M. and 4 P.M.: and that the officer entrusted with the duty of delivering such passes be subjected to a penalty in the event of his not delivering any such pass on the day it is applied for, when he has no lawful ground for refusing its delivery; such penalty to be summarily inflicted by the stipendiary magistrate on the complaint of the applicant or any person on his behalf.

Consolidation of labour laws.

51. By Ordinance No. 31 of 1867 many of the laws relating to Indian immigrants and other labourers were amended and consolidated. The consolidation, intentionally, was not made complete—that is, not so as to embrace all the laws of the Colony regarding labourers—because many of the changes then introduced into the system were looked upon as tentative, and as requiring the test of experience before being definitively admitted into our Statute Books. Sufficient time has not yet elapsed to enable us to see clearly how far those new principles will prove successful in carrying out the intentions of the Legislature; some of those principles require to be tried in a modified form before a definitive judgment can rightly be passed upon them. Besides, it is not improbable that other measures not hitherto sanctioned by law will have to be resorted to with the view of perfecting the system now in operation. It is therefore too soon yet to undertake a thorough consolidation of our labour laws, desirable as it no doubt is that they should be reduced to one complete code.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) H. N. D. BEYTS,

15th April, 1871. Protector of Immigrants.

Enclosure 5 in No. 4.

Enclosure 5 in No. 4.

SIR, Government Savings Bank, April 1, 1871.

I have the honour to lay before your Excellency the Annual Report of the Government Savings Bank for the past year 1870.

2. The Report is accompanied with the usual Appendices, giving in detail the necessary explanatory information as regards the movements of the bank during that period, and I have much satisfaction in stating that the public (the saving portion of) continue to manifest a desire to avail of the many advantages it offers.

3. The abundant crop in 1869–70, referred to in my former Report, has not been without its influence in improving the position of the bank, by giving an increase of 460 in the number of the depositors, and of 10,344*l.* in the amount now held in deposit; equivalent to 6·20 per 100 of the former and 5·98 per 100 of the latter; while, on the other hand, there was a decrease of 4·58 per 100 in the accounts closed.

4. The increase in the number of depositors and in the sums deposited are not in the same proportion, for the simple reason the deposits are in general made in small sums, which cannot exceed

during the year 75*l.* by any single depositor, while the withdrawals are but too frequently in large sums, sometimes reaching upwards of 300*l.*, the accumulation of past years; these large withdrawals being in many instances caused by depositors being able to make satisfactory investments, in arranging successions, and taking their money with them to Europe, and by Indians leaving the Colony: the departure of a vessel with time-expired or return Coolies, never fails to cause the withdrawal of large sums.

5. I beg here to add that during the first two months of the present year there was no falling off in the desire of the public to make use of the bank.

6. I trust it may not be considered out of place to lay before your Excellency a short statement showing the progress the bank has made since 1867, a year of death, sorrow, and deep affliction and much distress, caused by the pernicious fever which then raged, and which obliged a large number of depositors to withdraw their previous hard-earned savings, and close their accounts. This decrease was, however, followed by a reaction, as the baneful effects of the fever commenced to subside; such a pleasing change has been maintained by a steady increase in the number of depositors and in the amount deposited.

The statement stands as follows:—

	No. of Depositors.	Amount.		Increase.
		£		£
1867 - -	6,737	163,593		
1868 - -	7,113	165,754	= 376	2,161
1869 - -	7,413	172,730	= 300	6,976
1870 - -	7,873	183,074	= 460	10,344
Making a total increase of			- 1,136	£19,481

7. As the savings bank may be looked on in the light of a barometer, indicating the increasing or decreasing prosperity of the saving portion of the community, I have no doubt it will prove gratifying to your Excellency to find a steady improvement in the condition of that class, as regards both the general and the Indian populations.

8. During the past three years the Island has made one abundant and two bad crops, the latter causing, in each case, a diminution not far short of 800,000*l.* in the value of its only staple produce, affecting more or less the means of saving; and I may add, notwithstanding a diminution of nearly 40,000 persons of all classes on the Island, caused by fever, the bank has continued to improve annually its position, giving reasonable hopes that as the population again increases it will show further improvement.

9. Appendix No. 1 contains in abstract a general statement of the operations of the bank during the year 1871. A comparison with the corresponding one for the preceding year shows that in every instance there was an increase, with the exception of withdrawals; rather a favourable circumstance, indicating continued confidence and a diminished desire to fall back on their former savings to meet the wants of sickness and distress.

10. The principal reasons which caused depositors to withdraw

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their money and close their accounts are more fully explained in Appendix No. 3.

11. The general result as shown by this statement is that at the end of the last three years there were 7,873 depositors holding in deposit 183,074*l.*, being at the rate of 23*l.* 5*s.* 0¾*d.* for each depositor, or 11*s.* 5¼*d.* for each person in the Island; giving an increase over the preceding year as before stated of 460 depositors and of 10,344*l.* held in deposit.

12. Appendix No. 2 is a monthly statement of the operations during the year; the general result stands as follows:—

Years.	No. of new Depositors.	Total Amount deposited.	No. of Accounts closed.	Total Amount withdrawn, including Interest.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1870 - -	1,563	63,196 2 6½	1,103	61,005 17 6¼
1869 - - -	1,456	60,085 2 3	1,156	60'510 0 9½
Increase - -	107	3,111 0 3½	—	495 16 8¾
Decrease - -	—	—	53	—

The sums deposited and withdrawn are divided thus:—

	Amount Deposited.	Amount Withdrawn.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General population - -	40,479 9 2½	39,877 3 2¾
Indian population - - -	22,716 13 4	21,128 14 3½
Total - -	£63,196 2 6½	£61,005 17 6¼

and gives a comparative increase and decrease of the two last years:—

GENERAL POPULATION.

	Deposits.	Payments.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1870 - - - - -	40,479 9 2½	39,877 3 2¾
1869 - - - - -	38,085 9 4	39,974 16 10
Increase - - -	£2,393 19 10½	—
Decrease - - -	—	£97 13 7¼

INDIAN POPULATION.

	Deposits.	Payments.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1869 - - - - -	22,716 13 4	21,128 14 3½
1870 - - - - -	21,999 12 11	20,535 3 11½
Increase - - -	£717 0 5	£593 10 4
Decrease - - -	—	—

showing a large increase of 2,393*l.* 19*s.* 10½*d.* in the deposit and a small decrease of 97*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* in the payment by general population, and an increase both in the deposit and payment by the Indian population.

13. Appendix No. 3 explains in detail the principal causes of the withdrawals of deposits, as well as they could be ascertained at the time of withdrawal. Many depositors, particularly Indians, show a great reluctance to declare the real object why they close their accounts, and therefore too often give a fictitious motive.

14. It, however, shows a continued decrease in the withdrawals, both as regards the general and the Indian populations, implying, as I before stated, increased confidence in the utility of the bank.

15. There was a further decrease in the amount taken by Indians returning to their country, the average being reduced from 30*l.* to 24*l.* per Indian.

16. Declared investments in the Colony were not so extensive as during the previous year; this falling off may in some measure be accounted for by an increase under the head of "Miscellaneous," which includes various objects, such as marriages, feasts, &c., and the placing of money on more advantageous terms than those allowed by the bank.

17. In October last ten accounts of Indians, amounting to 264*l.*, were withdrawn on one day, a sort of panic having manifested itself among that class, who appeared to have been persuaded by some ill-disposed persons that their deposits were no longer safe now that the war was progressing unfavourably with the French, and therefore advised them to withdraw their savings. By promptly paying them their respective deposits, without requiring the usual notice of seven days to withdraw, this momentary panic appears to have at once subsided, for no more demands were made upon the same grounds; and some of them who withdrew their deposits, a few days afterwards replaced them.

18. This feeling of distrust commenced a few days previously in the Grand Port district, where seven depositors withdrew 294*l.*, on the same grounds, from the branch bank at Mahebourg.

19. The Indian population is at all times suspicious, and is easily misled by ill-disposed persons.

20. The mutations, as regards the general population, show a noticeable decrease in investments and for commercial purposes, also in the number of successions the bank has had to regulate, there appears a large increase in the Miscellaneous; but there were no demands on account of epidemic fever, a most favourable circumstance, and there were but two demands on the same score on the part of Indians.

21. Appendix No. 4 gives in detail the number of the several class of depositors belonging to the general and Indian population who held deposits at the end of the year.

22. As regards the Indian population, it shows a decrease in the number of depositors and in the amount deposited, as follows:—

	Number.	Amount.
		£
Agricultural labourers - -	90	2,925
Artisans and mechanics - - -	258	4,883
Children - - - - - -	9	620
Giving a total of - - -	357	£8,428

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The decrease is fully covered by an increase under the head of "Miscellaneous," but in number 445 and in amount 9,162*l.*, giving on the whole an increase of 100 in number and 1,444*l.* in amount.

23. General population also shows the following decrease:—

	Number.	Amount.
		£
Agricultural labourers - -	15	964
Artisans and mechanics - - -	72	883
Servants - - - - -	15	837
Soldiers and their wives - - -	5	336
Government servants - - -	12	136
Railways - - - - -	4	890
Giving a total of - - -	123	£4,046

and an increase under the following heads:—

	Number.	Amount.
		£
Children - - - - -	108	4,301
Police - - - - - -	13	586
Municipality - - - -	8	214
Societies - - - - -	10	35
Miscellaneous - - - -	344	7,808
Giving a total increase of -	483	£12,944

It is satisfactory to be able to point out a further increase of 4,301*l.* for the benefit of children.

Appendix No. 5 refers to the operations of the branch banks.

24. I am glad to be able to report that they have on the whole shown improvement during the past year. On comparing the present statements with that of the preceding year it will be seen that there was a further increase of 48 in the number of new accounts opened and of 2,802*l.* in the amount of the sums deposited by all classes.

25. The principal increase was in the Grand Port, Savanne, Plaines Wilhems and Moka districts; a moderate increase in the Flacq and Black River districts, and a falling off in the Rivière du Rempart and Pamplemousses districts.

26. All the branch banks, except the Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart, show an increase in the number of Indian depositors and the aggregate amount paid by them.

27. It is highly desirable as regards this class that the increase should continue, and thus prevent them, as much as possible, from absenting themselves from labour on visiting Port Louis. It would also have the effect of relieving the Central Bank which, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays of each week, is in general crowded with applicants, chiefly Indians from the districts, causing many of them to be detained for some time before their turn arrives to satisfy their wants. In some instances, when they are numerous, many are obliged to leave without being attended to, nothwithstanding the

bank was kept open for nearly an hour later than the time appointed, in order to accommodate them and not oblige them to attend the next day.

28. This state of things arises in some measure from the difficulty I have experienced in overcoming the objection the Indians entertain towards the district banks. Many of them appear to be under an erroneous impression, that their savings are safer and more satisfactorily accounted for at the Central Bank.

29. Appendices Nos. 6 and 7 refer to the distribution and fluctuation in the classes of depositors and the amount of deposits which stood to the credit of each class at the end of the year; being of themselves sufficiently explanatory, call for no observation.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) C. C. BROWNRIGG,
Acting Manager.

Governor, the Hon.
A. H. Gordon, C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 6 in No. 4.

Enclosure 6 in No. 4.

REPORT on the STATE of EDUCATION in the GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS of MAURITIUS for the year 1870.

SIR,

Schools' Office, Dec. 23, 1870.

I have the honour to lay before you the following Report on the operations of the Schools' Department for the year 1870. Introduction.

2. This Report deals with Government schools exclusively, and is entirely distinct from the Report required by law under conditions of Ord. VI. of 1856 on the working of schools assisted by annual grant from the Colonial Treasury, to be laid before the Governor in Executive Council before the 31st of March in each year. Nature of present report.

3. Beyond a passing reference, therefore, this document will not discuss or touch upon denominational education. Denominational schools not discussed.

4. Our thanks are due to the Giver of all Good that the Department has been enabled during the past year to carry on its important work without any serious hindrance from the epidemic fever, which for so long has paralyzed every branch of the public service. No serious interruption to school work.

5. The obituary for the year contains two deaths, that of Mrs. Avice, of Terre Rouge, a young schoolmistress of promise, and that of Mr. Charles Bell, for many years a faithful and painstaking master. Deaths and absentees.

It is due also to the memory of one whom death, only a few weeks since, withdrew from the stage of an active and useful existence, that I should not omit to acknowledge the services rendered by the deceased to popular education in this Colony.

As President for some years of the Council of Education, his sound judgment, his patriotism, and his philanthropy found a congenial sphere for their development; and when the weightier duties of a legislator were exchanged for the less conspicuous functions of the district magistrate of Savanne, the village school of Souillac found in Sir Gabriel Fropier both a patron and a friend. On the

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list of absentees stand the names of Mr. George Clark and Miss Clark.

Staff.

6. The teaching staff at present comprises:—

47	Masters.
25	Mistresses.
18	Male or female assistants.
79	Monitors and monitresses.
4	Teachers in training.
Total - -	173

Number of schools in operation.

7. There are in operation for the general population 29 schools, and for the Indians exclusively, 16. Eight are for boys, seven for girls, and thirty-seven are of a mixed character.

The annexed Table exhibits their topographical distribution.

Topographical distribution of schools.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION of SCHOOLS.

District.	Kind of School.			No. under instruction in same on Nov. 30th.*
	Separate Boys'.	Separate Girls'.	Mixed.	
Port Louis - - -	5	4	4	1,821
Pamplemousses - - -	1	1	10	719
Rivière du Rempart -	—	—	4	216
Flacq - - - -	1	1	5	507
Black River - - -	—	—	1	77
Moka - - - -	—	—	2	157
Plaines Wilhems - -	—	—	4	352
Grand Port - - -	1	1	4	415
Savanne - - -	—	—	2	162
Rodrigues - - - -	—	—	1	44
	8	7	37	4,470

* Exclusive of children in the Orphan Asylum and Government Reformatory.

Number on roll.

8. The number of pupils on roll is shown by the above statement to have been, on November 30th, 4,470, of whom 3,314 were boys, and 1,156 were girls.

Increase per cent.

9. Compared with the returns for the corresponding date of 1869, the total exhibits an increase of 465 pupils, or 11·6 per cent. (See Schedule A.)†

Attendance.

10. The minimum attendance for any one month of the year was in January: the minimum occurred in October. In January the registers stood at 3,543, and rose in October to 4,589.

11. Annexed will be found a tabulated statement (vide Schedule B), showing the monthly numerical strength of schools, both Creole and Indian, for the entire year.

Schools centesimally grouped.

12. It will be observed from the above tabulation that there are 34 schools containing less than one hundred scholars; 5 number between one hundred and two hundred; 3 between two hundred and three hundred; 2 register from three hundred to four hundred; 0 stand between four hundred and five hundred, and 1 only is over five hundred.

† The Schedules referred to in this Report are not printed.

Conduct of pupils.

13. Of the general good conduct of the present scholars ample testimony is at hand, and it is with the utmost satisfaction that I am enabled to point to many an old pupil now passing from boyhood to manhood as an example of integrity and worth.

Organization.

14. The Government schools are all organized upon one common basis, which renders the transfer of a teacher from one locality to another of no serious moment either to himself or the school, inasmuch as he finds in his new sphere of duty the same books, the same classification, and the same apparatus as he leaves behind him.

Deficiency in supply of school fittings.

15. A deficiency in the annual supply of school materials has until within the last six months been severely felt. The best has been done with the means at the disposal of the Surveyor-General during the past year, and my acknowledgments are due to that gentleman and others of his Department for the alacrity which they have shown to meet the demands made on their time and skill. Several projected new schools will require fittings by the end of January; I have therefore felt it incumbent on me, in the interest of education, to ask that a small portion of the savings of the Department, husbanded by strict economy from the current year's vote, may be assigned to the furnishing with necessary apparatus of the schools in question.

Annual grade examinations.

16. Since the 1st of August, 1,815 children have been presented for examination under the triple test of reading, writing, and arithmetic, after the model of the English Revised Code, which in 1866 was adapted to meet the educational exigencies of this Colony. As stated in a former Report, the leading feature of the Revised Code is that every child under instruction is required to pass successively, year by year, through certain prescribed grades of attainment, ranging from the mere rudiments of knowledge to the highest state of proficiency to which it is possible for an ordinary scholar to attain.

17. The number of distinct presentations amounted to 5,446; the passes to 4,637; or 85·1 per cent. on the number examined.

Arithmetical knowledge.

19. In the Appendix (Schedule C) will be found a Table affording full particulars on the individual merit of each school or department of school examined. Arithmetic does not figure so well as could be desired, and teachers will have to bestow more attention on this subject in future in order that it may stand on a par with other branches of instruction.

English language.

20. It is also too clearly apparent that the English does not as yet occupy that position on the programme which its importance merits.

Every effort must therefore be put forth for the accomplishment of this result.

Teachers should also bear in mind that the chief end which one of Her Majesty's Ministers had in view in the establishment of Government schools was to render the natives of the Colony familiar with the English tongue.

Earl Grey, in a Despatch dated November, 1846, commenting on the corrupt and unintelligible dialects spoken by the lower Creole and Indian population of Mauritius, quoted this very defect as furnishing "an important evidence of the necessity of establishing schools in "which the children of these classes might acquire a knowledge of "the English language."

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Injury to schools by masters having to serve as jurymen.

21. Perhaps no department of the service experiences so great an inconvenience from interruptions during the assize terms, by the withdrawal of the masters from their posts as jurymen, than this; and I can but view the trouble to which they are so frequently put—apart from the injurious effect to the discipline of large schools by the master's absence — as in some degree a just retribution for the neglect in bygone days of employing the French language in preference to English, as the vehicle for class instruction.

Remedy suggested.

22. It would tend very materially to remedy the defect now under discussion, were the following points more strictly attended to by schoolmasters and schoolmistresses generally:—

1. To insist upon the pupils making known their wants and wishes in English;

2. To encourage short daily conversations between class and class;

3. To recommend for employment as monitor or monitress, no scholar who cannot converse freely in English;

4. To be present with and assist the monitors and monitresses in the preparation of all English lessons before given to the class; and

5. To make the language a matter of personal study for themselves.

These means employed, the English tongue will soon occupy in the affections of the rising generation that position which it reasonably claims from a race in the full enjoyment of British rights and freedom.

Trained teachers.

23. Of the seven schoolmasters and five schoolmistresses introduced from England between the years 1860-64, two masters and two mistresses only remain in the Department.

To encourage native enterprise and with a view to economy, vacancies created by those who have resigned or left the Island have been filled up by teachers born and trained in the Colony.

Maturer experience, however, seems to point to such a measure as at least inexpedient, and the foregoing observations tend to very materially strengthen my conviction that it is highly desirable to renovate the teaching staff from time to time by the further introduction of trained teachers from home.

New schools.

24. Three new schools for the general population have been established since January last with satisfactory results; one at Rivière des Anguilles; another at Riche Terre, upon the petition of the inhabitants; and a third at Nouvelle Découverte.

Rival schools supported at Government cost.

25. Government teachers in some places complain, and I believe not without good reason, of the unwholesome rivalry which exists between their own and the denominational (or as they are more commonly styled) Grant-in-Aid Schools; and they cite ample testimony in support of the views enunciated by the majority of the Civil Commissioners in their report of last year with respect to the future allotment of grants. The paragraph runs as follows:—

"They (the Commissioners) would recommend as regards grants in aid * * * that grants should be refused in all cases where the school applying is placed in such a locality as may cause it to become in any way a rival school to any Government school now existing, or which Government hereafter may think fit to institute."

—Report C. S. Commission, page 8, par. 35, September 16th, 1869. MAURITIUS.

Institutions other than Government schools.

26. The institutions known under the name of the Indian Orphan Asylum, the Government Reformatory, and the Barkly Asylum, Beau Bassin, are separately reported on by their respective Directors; I shall therefore confine my observations to the Educational branch of each, respectively.

27. *Government Reformatory, L'Asyle.*—The number of boys under instruction at the present time is 277, half of whom attend school on every alternate day, whilst the other half are occupied at field labour or their respective trades. Such as are unable, from the nature of their employment, to avail themselves of the day school, are expected to attend the evening class.

The day school is taught by three promising young men, two of whom add to their other qualifications some knowledge of a trade. Mr. Evans, the resident officer in charge of the institution, reports favourably of their assiduity and general good conduct.

Several of the most proficient boys have recently left the reformatory. There are still remaining a fair proportion who are beginning to read English with ease, and to translate into Creole or into one of the Indian vernaculars, the principal words in a sentence. They also reply readily to questions put to them on common things and occurrences. Before long, most of the pupils of the first class will have mastered the four simple rules of arithmetic, three of which they handle already with tolerable accuracy. The first, second, and third classes, acquitted themselves very creditably at my last inspection in mental arithmetic and tables.

The Creole patois is the dominant tongue, a large proportion of the boys having been born in the Colony. Many of the others left India so young as to know little or nothing of their native language.

The hand-writing of the whole school, if viewed progressively, is very good. In writing from dictation in English, the spelling, as might be expected, is almost purely phonetic. This fault is not peculiar to the Reformatory School. A singing class has been established since my last Report, and a harmonium added to the school-room.

The daily lessons open by a recital of the Lord's Prayer in Tamil, Bengalee, and English.

The hours of instruction are from 8 A.M. to 1 P.M. There is no school on Saturday, and Sunday is a day of rest. The furniture, consisting of 14 parallel desks, is of the best pattern and make; but there is insufficient room for properly grouping them.

The organization therefore must necessarily, to a certain extent, be defective until better accommodation can be provided.

So far as I have been able to gather from the official records and from accounts received from time to time on the spot, I believe the moral tone of the pupils would compare very creditably with any other institution carried on under like circumstances.

Drawn as the inmates are from the lowest stratum of society; inured, as most of them have been, to hardships from their birth, and rendered obdurate by frequent contact with vice, I can only ascribe the improved and improving character of the boys, taken as a whole, to the hand of Divine Providence directing and crowning, with no

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mean measure of success, the philanthropic efforts of the promoters of the reformatory scheme.

28. *Orphan Asylum.*—The present year being the first in which the pupils were examined under the provisions of the Revised Code, I am unable to furnish any numerical comparison between this and former years. Judging, however, from the results of 1869 obtained under the old process, "steady progress" throughout the entire educational establishment seems to me to be the only and fair verdict which could be given.

The want of a preparatory branch for the infants exclusively must be sorely felt, as, under existing circumstances, the youngest children have to be drafted into the juvenile schools without any of that previous training which infant schools alone are capable of giving.

29. *Barkly Asylum.*—I applied the grade test (as adopted in the Government schools) to the upper division of the Poor Law Asylum schools for the first time in October last. There passed in reading 29, writing 29, arithmetic 29, or 85·3 per cent. as compared with the number presented. This result is the more creditable, as the classes were examined without any previous notice.

The state of the infant branch is also highly satisfactory, and promises much for the future prosperity of the juvenile branch, the one being the nursery and preparatory school for the other.

The attendance (as shown by the registers) is far less fluctuating than it was formerly. This, I presume, is attributable alike to the improved health of the children and the result of discipline.

The children are respectful in manner, clean in personal appearance, and wear a cheerful look.

The school-rooms are amply supplied with school requisites, the pictorial lesson cards being invaluable.

The elder girls belonging to the Industrial school attend the classes for a part of the day, i. e. after their manual duties are over. The combination of intellectual with industrial employment for girls whose future a few months ago could only be regarded as one of useless inactivity at best, is a most important step in the social condition of this institution.

There are few persons to be found who would enter so zealously into her work as Miss Lawrence, the present directress, and results such as characterize this lady's labours are by no means common.

New Normal school.

30. The Upper Government Normal School, opened in February last, has proved thus far a complete success. This institution (if I may be allowed to compare small things with great) constitutes a kind of University for the more advanced scholars of all Government schools. The programme of instruction is high, and pupils are only admitted upon competitive examination. The number is limited to one hundred.

31. The teaching staff is composed of a head master, an assistant master, and four students in training. Lectures are delivered fortnightly, to which all teachers who can avail themselves of the privilege are invited.

Prizes.

32. The children's prizes, at one time so numerous as to destroy the ends which they were originally meant to serve, have now been reduced to a minimum.

Parents and pupils must, at least until better times come, look for rewards to the boys in the more substantial forms of the two scholarships to be annually competed for by the most proficient scholars of the Government schools.

Two annual exhibitions of 10*l.* each.

33. These exhibitions, tenable for three years, and of the annual value of 10*l.* each, owe their creation to the deep interest which our late esteemed Governor, Sir Henry Barkly, took in elementary education.

The results of the first examination, which was held during the early part of the present month, are set forth in the Appendix. (Sch. D.)

Conditions of competition.

34. The conditions of competition were :—

(*a*). That the candidate had been a pupil of a Government school for the two years immediately preceding the examination.

(*b*). That he had been taught only during the usual school hours.

(*c*). That he had not completed the sixteenth year of his age on the day appointed for the entry of the names of the candidates.

Age of candidates at future examinations.

35. It will probably prove advisable to reduce the age for candidates one year, at future examinations.

Schools' Committee.

36. The Schools' Committee have held eight sittings during the past year under the presidency of the Honourable W. M. Anderson and under the Honourable F. M. Dick, successively Vice-Presidents of the Council of Education. To every member of the Board my best thanks are due for the willing co-operation and advice accorded in the administration of so large and so important a Department.

Hindoostanee schools.

37. The two Hindoostanee schools of Port Louis no longer exist as distinct institutions, but the services of one teacher have been retained, and this officer now attends the town schools in rotation for the purpose of imparting instruction to the Lascar pupils in their own tongue.

Change in hours in instruction.

38. As an experimental measure, and one which promises to be a successful arrangement, schools lying within municipal limits commence duty at 7 A.M. from October 1st, to March 31st; and at 8 A.M. from April 1st, to September 30th. The concurrent testimony of the schoolmasters and schoolmistresses goes to prove that more real work is got through with less fatigue to all concerned, whilst by the dismissal of the pupils before the sultry hours of the day set in, they become less liable to the attacks of fever and other malarial concomitants to which closely-packed numbers are known to be susceptible.

Needlework.

39. There has been a great improvement in needlework during the last few years, and prizes for this branch will not be discontinued. It is purposed to await the Exhibition, annually held under the auspices of the Society of Arts and Sciences, for the usual award for productions of this nature. Hitherto Government schools have rarely exhibited their needlework publicly, under the impression that fancy articles alone stood any chance of a prize.

The adjudicators last year, however, paid more than usual attention to this branch of industry, and I have the assurance that articles classified under the head of plain sewing, embracing shirts, vests, and other useful articles of apparel, will henceforth receive due consideration.

After the Industrial Exhibition is over, the articles will again be exposed for inspection, and a committee of ladies, as in former years,

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will recommend the best specimens for the award of additional prizes at the hands of Government.

Schoolmasters' reports for year 1870.

40. It would swell the present record beyond ordinary limits, were I to embody in it the very interesting Reports recently received from the masters on the working of their respective schools during the past twelve months.

I shall restrict myself, therefore, to a few extracts.

Western suburb, Port Louis.

41. Beginning with the Western suburb school, Port Louis, Mr. Dyas reports in substance as follows:—

Since the death of Bishop Hatchard no clergyman of the Church of England has been able to attend my school for the purpose of imparting even the rudiments of the Christian religion to the Protestant children. Fifty-nine Roman Catholic children have been under orders to attend the Church of the Immaculate Conception twice a week for religious instruction during 1870.

Of 396 pupils on books during the month of October, 346 answered the roll-call. Since January 351 children have been admitted or re-admitted and 300 withdrawn, consequent upon one or more of the following causes: 1, repeated attacks of fever; 2, frequent removals to and from the neighbourhood; 3, want of clothes.

As an indication of the indigency which prevails among the pupils, I may mention that upwards of 130 children have lost one or both of their parents. Many possess but one suit of clothes, and when that is worn out the owner remains at home sometimes two or three months before means are obtained to purchase a new suit.

I am happy in being able to add that this institution continues to merit approbation, and to retain its hold upon public esteem. Like other town schools the applications for admission exceed the accommodation afforded, and candidates are admitted by rotation.

Eastern suburb.

42. *Eastern Suburb School.*—This school suffered very seriously during the epidemic. It is at present under the joint management of Mr. Mainty and Mrs. Constance, and promises to regain before long its former high position among town schools.

Central school.

43. *Central School.*—This institution has for many years enjoyed a well-earned reputation, and contains a larger number of pupils than any other school.

Champ-de-Lort.

44. *Champ-de-Lort.*—This school is greatly overcrowded. A proposal to enlarge the present building will, it is hoped, be acceded to, thereby allowing a separation of the sexes, besides providing accommodation for an infant branch. Mr. Casimir and Mrs. Leaper are zealous and painstaking teachers.

Grand River, N.W.

45. *Grand River, N.W.*—A poor, unsatisfactory school. The master, who bears an excellent character, will shortly retire from the service on account of impaired health.

Terre Rouge.

46. *Terre Rouge.*—This school had also much to contend with during the prevalence, and after the abatement, of the fever. It has more recently sustained a serious loss in the death of its schoolmistress, Mrs. Avice.

Pamplemousses.

47. *Pamplemousses.*—Upon the whole a flourishing school. Master is somewhat deficient as a disciplinarian, but in other respects a good teacher. Two large rival schools in the immediate vicinity have rendered unceasing diligence on the part of both master and mistress im-

perative, and they have their reward in the large attendance they ensure.

48. *Poudre d'Or.*—The master here reports that during the last twenty months, 74 boys and 53 girls have been withdrawn. Of this number, 22 have left to join the two schools assisted by grant in the village, whilst 27 have removed from the district. 18 ex-scholars are known to be following a trade. Of the occupation of 17 other boys and 24 girls nothing is known. Poudre d'Or.

49. *Trou d'Eau Douce.*—This school was opened by way of experiment in October of last year, upon my being informed that many of the fishing population had removed to that locality. Trou d'Eau Douce.

Mr. Nash was therefore temporarily withdrawn from Grand River, S.E., and placed there. His monthly returns for October, 1869, are as follows:—

October, 1869, on roll 21, in average attendance 15. Fees, 1*s.* 6*d.* October, 1869, on roll 102. No. in average attendance, 90. Fees, 2*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*

The school buildings are very humble and the furniture insufficient. These drawbacks will be remedied in due time.

50. *Grand River, S.E.*—This little school has recently increased in numbers. The population is nevertheless considerably diminished, so that a large school can scarcely be looked for for some time to come. The attendance for the month of November was 42. Grand River, S.E.

51. *Flacq.*—This is a large and important institution, and continues to maintain its good name in public favour. There are on the roll for the present month, 192 boys and 70 girls; exclusive of the Indian branch, which numbers 50 scholars. Flacq.

52. *Grand Bay.*—The schools at Grand Bay and Arsenal still suffer from fluctuations in the attendance, consequent upon the fever, whilst that of Roc-en-Roc, a kind of isolated outpost, is not so numerously attended as could be desired. It will be necessary probably before long to shift the latter school to a more populous locality. Grand Bay.

The families of fishermen are now centralizing about Bai-aux-Tortues, and steps have been taken to convert the Indian school at Pointe-aux-Piments into one for the general population.

53. *Pailles.*—At Pailles the teachers have much to discourage them. Protracted sickness has brought in its train poverty and other evils, all detrimental to educational progress. Pailles.

Of Pailles school Mr. Madge writes:—"My pupils are now the "children of parents whose means are so very precarious that they "are unable to provide them with both food and clothing, and are "often obliged to refuse the latter in order to procure them bread. "The absentees are usually such as are absent from sickness themselves, or are detained at home to attend on their sick parents."

54. *Rose Hill.*—This once picturesque hamlet is fast being converted into an Indian village, and the Indian school continues to be well attended and to give satisfaction. Rose Hill.

The Government Creole school in the immediate locality, under the mastership of Mr. Dinnematin, is entitled to commendation. The numerical strength of the school on the 30th November was 140 boys and 60 girls. The greatest number present of these during any month of the year was 184. The average attendance for the year is 140

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nearly. School fees, even in this locality, are obtained with much difficulty, although 19 per cent. of the pupils are admitted free.

Plaine Magnien.

55. *Plaine Magnien.*—This district, like many others to which the fever has clung so mercilessly, is, I hope, at last recovering from its prostration.

The school, as a consequence, begins to exhibit signs of vitality, and the attendance has been less fluctuating of late.

The girls' branch, through the sad protracted illness of its mistresses, is highly susceptible of improvement both in numbers and efficiency.

L'Escalier.

56. *L'Escalier.*—The school here is comprised of children of the very poorest class, whose parents earn a precarious living by the making of vacoa bags. The attendance is very fair, and the educational condition of the school tolerable.

Rivière des Anguilles.

57. *Rivière des Anguilles.*—A newly-established school, under young, active teachers. The excellent results of the late grade examination must be attributed to careful classification rather than proficiency, the *presentations* as to grade on the first occasion being left to the discretion of the teachers. The so-called parish school has been closed, that of the Government being found fully able to meet the wants of the locality.

Souillac.

58. *Souillac.*—The establishment of a rival denominational school within a few hundred yards of the Government institution, has not been without its benefit in stimulating the teachers and pupils to unremitting diligence in the discharge of their duties. The only injury sustained by the Department in the establishment of the village free school is the diminution of fees by the withdrawal of several pupils whose parents, unable themselves to judge as to the quality of the instruction given in the respective schools, are only too glad to avail themselves of one in which no payments are exacted, and where the discipline is found to be more agreeable to their domestic habits.

Riche Terre.

59. *Riche Terre.*—This school was only established last April.

A memorial has been received from the inhabitants of Riche Terre soliciting its removal from its present site to the high road. I am by no means certain that much would be gained by the change, but in the event of suitable premises becoming available, the Department will not withhold from the petitioners what may probably turn out to be a better arrangement.

Moka.

60. *Moka.*—This useful little school is quietly doing its work effectually and well.

Mahebourg.

61. *Mahebourg.*—These schools continue to enjoy the reputation which they acquired under Mr. George Clark. Since the departure of Mr. Clark on sick leave, the site has been changed, and the present extensive and commodious premises, comprising four distinct departments of schools, with residences attached, are about to be taken on lease.

The principal direction of this institution is at present confided to Mr. Robert Bell and Mrs. Smith, who are aided by five monitors and three monitresses.

About 200 children are under instruction, of whom 44 are Indians. I find from Mr. Bell's returns, that the highest number at any time during the present year was 133 boys and 60 girls.

It is a testimony to the proficiency of the school to find that no pupil of the first class, and very few of even the lower forms have left to enter any of the other schools, in which Mahebourg abounds. On the contrary, advanced scholars are known to enter the Government school to complete their education. The greater part of those withdrawn since my last Report are following some trade. Respecting the moral tone of the institution, Mr. Bell reports:—

"No child has been dismissed for misconduct during the year. Petty theft, such as pilfering from one another, a thing very common at school, is now nearly unheard of. The smallest article picked up is at once brought to the teacher.

"The children of both sexes (reports Mr. Bell) are regularly sent to their respective places of worship for Catechism on the appointed days, under the charge of one or more monitors. The lessons appointed by the clergy are taught two or three times a week, after school hours, in separate class rooms, by teachers of the respective creeds.

"The privilege accorded to parents of objecting in writing to their children's detention at school or chapel for religious instruction has been availed of by very few."

The foregoing extracts are, in many respects, highly interesting and suggestive, as will also be found the Report of the head master of the Normal school, which I beg to insert in the Appendix. To the entire staff of teachers my thanks are justly due. Of the fidelity and zeal also of Mr. Bergicourt, the accountant, and of Mr. Boucherat, the clerk of the School's Office, in the discharge of their duties, I am happy to renew my testimony. I would desire further to avail myself of the present opportunity of testifying to the efficient aid rendered to the departments by Mr. Walter Henry Ashley, the head master of the Normal school. Having been entrusted with the acting superintendency of the schools, he has acquired a perfect knowledge of their working, and is ever ready to give the Department the benefit of his experience whenever asked to undertake any additional responsibility in the furtherance of education.

Education of Indian population.

In conclusion, it is with sorrow—I could almost say with shame—that I am still obliged to confess how little the Department has been able to accomplish as yet for the Indian population. Estate schools will, it is to be feared, ever be a failure until the law steps in and renders attendance of children at school, for at least a few hours of the day, obligatory.

Some sugar estates literally teem with children under twelve years of age, wild, dirty, and unclad. A supply of rations from the planter is deemed a sufficient recompense to the parents for such as are old enough to be employed in weeding and cleaning the fields, whilst those who are too young to work are allowed to spend the years which should be devoted to instruction, in pilfering and play.

I hesitate to speculate, in a public record of this nature, upon the insignificant percentage of Indians under instruction as compared with the census returns of the Colony. The few found in our Government and assisted schools are mostly the children of tradesmen, sirdars, and shopkeepers; rarely from the families of the immigrant

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labourer: and these, the pick of the Colony, are chiefly of the Hindoo type, among whom the grossest ideas of morality prevail.

If such be true of the few under instruction, what a picture must the entire Island reveal, despite all its wealth and natural beauty, when its teeming thousands are known to be subject to none of the great moral influences which education is acknowledged to exert, and whose religious teaching is restricted to a very rare and occasional visit of some missionary attached to the Roman Catholic or English Church.

We have at present only one Reform Institution, and that is of acknowledged worth. Had we one in each district of the Island, I fear they would all be as well attended, though probably less ably and less successfully managed. Reformatories are remedial establishments, and their need is palpable. All this but argues doubly in favour of preventive institutions, such as schools, and the adoption of other organizations of a philanthropic character, having for their aim and end the social and educational improvement of the Indian community settled in Mauritius.

I have, &c.,

Major-Gen. E. S. Smyth, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. COMBER BROWNE,
Superintendent of Government Schools.

ROYAL COLLEGE.

The following is the Address of Mr. BRUCE, the Rector, on the occasion of the distribution of prizes on the 12th instant:—

Before proceeding to give an account of the activity of the Royal College during the past academical year, it is meet and right that I should allude to the successes of recent Laureates of the Royal College, in England.

During the year 1870 Mr. Macdonald, at the Roman Catholic University in Dublin, gained three exhibition prizes; a first prize of 20*l.* in Greek and Latin literature; first prize of the same value in French, and second prize of 15*l.* in sciences.

Mr. Hullard, an exhibition at University College, London, of 30*l.* per annum for two years, and a certificate of honour in chemistry; Mr. Crétin, an exhibition of 20*l.* per annum at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Mr. Hullard and Mr. Crétin have also passed the first B.Sc. examination at the University of London, the latter taking honours in chemistry.

Although the news of these successes did not reach me in time for the Commemoration of last year, they were all gained within a very short time of our Laureates arriving in England, and they seem to show that the students of the Royal College, notwithstanding the serious interruption made by the voyage home, are able, so far as our standard of instruction reaches, to compete honourably with those who have had all the advantages of an education in Europe.

Last year the course of studies pursued in the highest class of the College did not, except in classes, extend greatly beyond the subjects required for matriculation at the University of London; this year

the preparation for that examination has been the work of the second class, while the first class has reached, and in some branches gone considerably beyond, the standard of the B.A. examination. Last year we sent up six candidates for matriculation, two of whom passed in honours and three in the first division. This year we have sent up nine candidates for matriculation, and five or six will be ready for the B.A. examination next week. In order that the annual prizes may be given to the first and second class, in accordance with the report of the University examiners, it is intended in future, as the results of the London examinations do not reach us before December, to hold the annual commemoration and distribution of prizes at Christmas instead of in the month of September.

The following analysis is not without interest:—

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

MATRICULATION, JUNE, 1870.

Number of Candidates.	Passed.		Second Division.	Rejected.
	Honours.	First Division.		
503	71	167	34	231

Out of which numbers our students passed as follows:—

Number of Candidates.	Passed.		Second Division.	Rejected.
	Honours.	First Division.		
6	2	3	0	1

The candidates who failed, according to the report of the examiners, passed in seven out of the nine subjects in which candidates are required to satisfy the examiners.

Our connection with the University of London is of great advantage to us. These examinations, conducted by independent examiners, furnish a public and impartial guarantee of the reality of our studies; they accustom those students who are to finish their education in England to the English method of examination; they assist us in introducing from time to time the newest and best educational works, and above all, they inspire both professors and students with an enthusiastic determination to exercise all their energies and employ all their resources to produce creditable results.

The papers for the English Scholarship Examination were this year sent from England by a body of professional examiners. Circumstances over which we had no control prevented us from sending the answers back to be valued by the examiners, and it was proposed therefore to invite the Bishop of Mauritius and the Vicar-General to nominate some gentlemen to assist the college authorities in looking over the papers. The death of the Bishop and a ceremonial observ-

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ance of the Catholic Church, coinciding with the time of our examinations, deprived us of the assistance which we hoped to obtain; but as in the papers sent out the value of every question was assigned by the examiners, the work of looking over the papers was reduced to an almost mechanical operation, and I trust that we have been able, with due impartiality, to assign these important rewards to those who have best merited them.

At the commencement of the present year it was determined to open a modern department of the Royal College, the branches to be taught including one or two of the languages of India. I have always been surprised to observe how little importance is attached to a knowledge of Tamil and Hindostanee, languages spoken by so large a portion of the community; and in making the present experiment I have been still more surprised to find that many parents seem positively averse to their children acquiring a knowledge of one of the Indian languages. Now it seems to me that a knowledge of the two Indian languages principally spoken in the Colony, is so useful and important an acquisition, that some substantial inducement ought to be held out to those who are willing, by gaining a thorough mastery of these tongues, to fit themselves for positions which men without such a knowledge cannot perfectly or satisfactorily fill. In order to facilitate such arrangements as may have to be made in view of these considerations, I have applied to the Universities of Calcutta and Madras, in order that by affiliation to those institutions we may be able to prosecute our studies in this new department of knowledge with some means of guaranteeing the reality of our progress by the criterion of public examinations conducted by independent examiners. I have been informed that the Senate of Calcutta will probably consent to our association, on terms somewhat similar to those which regulate our connection with the University of London. From the University of Madras I have been informed that arrangements for the affiliation of such institutions as the Royal College of Mauritius are not yet completed, but that in the event of a scheme at present under discussion being carried out, the Senate will accede to our request. These matters are likely to engage the serious attention of the Council of Education during the ensuing year. I have thought it right to allude to them on this occasion, but I am bound to say that for the opinions which I am now expressing, I am personally responsible, some of my colleagues in the Council holding views on this point which differ from my own.

For the rest, the studies of the Royal College have been pursued during the past academical year, according to the programme approved by the Council of Education, with conscientious and untiring industry on the part of my colleagues, and as I trust to the promotion of sound and useful learning among the students. I have only to express a regret, which has I believe frequently been expressed by those interested in educational matters here, and which is, I find, re-echoed by those engaged in similar institutions in other colonies of the empire,—I regret, namely, the abrupt termination which takes place in the education of a great majority of the youth of the Colony, just at the period when the intellect is ripest for study, when the nature and uses of learning have begun to be appreciated, and when the

acquisition of knowledge is beginning to be a work of love rather than a labour of compulsion.

I pass on to the present condition and future prospects of the College school.

Two years ago I exhibited in ample detail the principles of a scheme intended to make of the Royal College not only an institution that should put within easy reach of all to whom such a boon is likely to be acceptable the advantages of the best superior education which the Colony can afford, but also a central impulse controlling the whole region of study between its own classes and the Government primary schools.

The object of that scheme was, briefly, to introduce an uniform system of secondary instruction, by bringing under the influence of the Council of Education, as representing the supreme intelligence of the community, all such free adventurers in education as chose to co-operate with the public educational movement without direct remuneration, but satisfied to submit to a limited control, in the assurance of an equivalent to be gained in the increased confidence which a public guarantee and a public criterion might be expected to secure.

The details of that scheme have been so often and so elaborately discussed that I will not now repeat them; I regret to say that it has been found necessary to abandon for the present at least, and probably for many years, one important part of the proposed plan. I allude to the abolition of the College school. Still adhering to all that I have said on former occasions in favour of the transfer of secondary instruction from a Government institution to free enterprise, as correct in principle, I am anxious to avoid all confusion between the excellence of a principle and its premature or inopportune application.

Last year, at our annual distribution of prizes, I was able to speak of the scheme as working with cheerful promise, and I should have been very glad to be able to report to-day that the promise of the first year's experiment had been fulfilled. But the change which has come over the prospects of the College has been due to two causes.

In the first place, it has become evident that private adventure is not at present able to compete with the endowed institution, and secondly, the confidence of the public, so long withheld from the Royal College, is now to a great extent, I might almost say fully restored. In our endeavours to transfer the work of secondary instruction from the College to a system of associated schools, we relied principally on the support of four of the most important schools in the Colony. But two of the head masters of these institutions have found it to their advantage to abandon free educational enterprise, and to accept appointments at the Royal College. One of these gentlemen was the only head-master whose pupils achieved any considerable success in last year's examinations, and I think therefore that his accession to the Royal College school is a circumstance upon which the College authorities may fairly congratulate themselves and the public. As for the other two schools, one of them sent a large number of candidates to last year's examination, but their want of success has, I fear, discouraged the proprietor, for he has not this

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year repeated the experiment. He still however, I believe, follows the programme of the Council of Education, and I trust next year to see the pupils of his establishment contending in honourable and successful emulation with the pupils of the College school.

The success of the scheme which has been for the last eighteen months under experiment depended, in the first instance, on the heads of private institutions giving evidence, in the public competitive examinations, of their ability to organize a system of private schools in which a parent could be sure of finding every advantage which he could possibly derive from the school at present attached to the Royal College. The result of last year's examination showed that the private adventure schools were not in a position to compete against the Government institution even so high as the very moderate standard of instruction required for the first class of the College school. Again, it was believed that the advantages which might reasonably be expected from successful private schools, and to which I endeavoured to do full justice in my address from this place two years ago, would outweigh, in the estimation of parents, the superiority of organization and greater fixity of principle which distinguish endowments generally. This has not proved to be the case, for notwithstanding the doubts which have surrounded the existence of the College school, our registers show the following statistics:—

NUMBER of PUPILS on the COLLEGE REGISTERS.

July, 1868	School	85	116
	College	31	
„ 1869	School	79	132
	College	53	
„ 1870	School	95	164
	College	69	
„ 1871	School	153	250
	College	92	

Our efforts to introduce uniformity of method in secondary instruction were stimulated by the fact that within the last few years the fever has prompted and the railway facilitated emigration from Port Louis to healthier parts of the Island. It became therefore a matter of especial importance to provide the most salubrious parts of the Colony with educational resources; and it was with much regret that we learned that one or two schools, upon which we relied, were unwilling or unable to adopt the system proposed, and to take advantage of the public guarantee afforded by the annual examinations held at the Royal College. Under these circumstances it was important that something should be done to enable such persons as considerations of health had led into the country districts to enjoy the educational benefits which it was the object of the Royal College to bestow on all classes of the community. This seemed all the more desirable inasmuch as the boys likely to take advantage of such a school as it was proposed to establish belong to an influential class, and are likely to hold some day or other important positions in the Colony.

These considerations have led to the establishment of a branch of the Royal College school at Curepipe, the classes of which will follow

precisely the same studies as the classes in Port Louis; while the parallel progress of the two establishments will be secured by monthly examinations conducted by the professors of the Royal College. The Curepipe school will be opened on the 1st September, and the committee look forward to its success with confident hope.

A glance at the results of the general competitive school examinations will show that, although a few candidates from private schools achieved a moderate share of success last year, private enterprise has this year shown no indications of its ability to compete with the Royal College. Instead, therefore, of endeavouring to arrive at uniformity of secondary education through a system of private schools voluntarily submitting to the control of the Council of Education, we must endeavour to reach that end through a system of schools in immediate connection with and directly under the control of the Royal College. Since the Curepipe question has been discussed, the idea of a similar school in another district has already been suggested; and in a word my desire is to make the Royal College school as good a school and as well adapted to the needs of the community, as care and industry, supported by the generous liberality of the Colony, which will, I know not be wanting, can make it, and then to use every endeavour to place within reach of other districts an equally good school. Whether that school be a private enterprise submitting voluntarily but in good faith to the control of the Council of Education, or a Government institution, is a matter of comparatively little importance. On the whole therefore the modification of our plans is merely a modification rendered necessary by local and special circumstances, for the effectual furtherance of the object of which we have never lost sight—namely, the introduction and extension of an uniform system of secondary instruction.

To this record of what has been done for the promotion of secondary instruction, I need now only add that an elementary school has been joined to the previously existing classes, so that children may prepare themselves for the more serious labours of riper years at a very early age.

On the course things have taken during the last two years I look back without regret, and I look forward to the future of this important institution with good hope; with a hope well founded, I believe, in the knowledge that all concerned either in the control of general arrangements, or in carrying on the daily and hourly labours of education, are working with cordial sympathy and united energy in the cause. On my arrival in Mauritius, nearly three years ago, I found the Colony passing through one of those periods of fiery trial which light generations down in honour or dishonour to their children's children. In the great distress which prevailed I was assured on all sides that whatever sacrifices had to be made, whatever painful economies to be effected, no cost would be spared to secure the children of the community the advantages of a really good education. I have endeavoured, to the best of my ability, to do justice to that brave and wise determination.

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Enclosure 7 in No. 4.

Enclosure 7 in No. 4.

RETURN of NEW CIVIL CASES before the SUPREME COURT during the Year 1870.

Actions above 100*l.*	546
Actions under 100*l.*	99
Appeals from judgments of magistrates	27
Bankruptcy cases	12
Arrangements under the control of the Court	5
Cessiones Bonorum	Nil
Total	689

RETURN of CRIMINAL CASES tried in the SUPREME COURT during the Year 1870.

Cases tried at assizes	55
Appeals from convictions of magistrates	17
Total	72
Number of prisoners tried at assizes	96
Number of prisoners tried in appeals from convictions	43
Total	139
Civil cases	689
Criminal cases	72
Total	761

(Signed) F. HERCHENRODER,
Registrar.

April 26, 1871.

Enclosure 8 in No. 4.

Enclosure 8 in No. 4.

CRIME REPORT, 1870.

* The Table not printed.

1. The tabular* statement annexed to this Report will show the number of criminal cases which have been tried before the Court of Assize in this Colony, from the year 1866 to the year 1870 inclusive.

2. The number of cases tried during the year 1870 is rather more than the number tried in 1869, but less than in any of the three years previous to that.

3. It will be observed, however, that the number of accused in 1870 is less than in any of the four years previous; and since 1866 there has been a very considerable decrease in the number of persons tried. This decrease in the number of cases and persons tried during the last two years, I must, as was stated in the Report on Crime of last year, attribute in great measure to the Ordinance, No. 11 of 1869, by which jurisdiction was given to the district magistrates to try certain cases they could not previously have taken cognizance of, as also powers to the

Procureur-General by which he can authorize them to entertain certain other charges. This Ordinance has therefore rendered it unnecessary to bring a great number of cases before the assizes, which previously it was obligatory to do.

No. of Cases and Accused.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
No. of Cases - -	101	68	75	49	55
No. of Accused - -	236	133	152	101	85

As to whether there has been an increase of criminal business before the district Courts corresponding with the decrease before the Court of Assize, I am not in possession of the necessary facts to show, inasmuch as the district magistrates do not forward to the Procureur-General a list of the cases tried before them.

In comparing the number of accused tried at the assizes during the year 1870, with the number tried in 1869, it must also be remembered that during the first-mentioned year the population of the Island has somewhat increased, yet notwithstanding this increase the number of accused brought to trial has decreased.

On 31st December, 1869, the population of the Island was 322,924, and on the 31st December, 1870, 328,633, showing an increase of 5,709. The Indian population during the latter year consisted of 140,283 males to 70,353 females, showing the proportion of males to be 66·7 per cent.

4. The following shows the state of crime with reference to the different districts of the Island, both as regards the number of cases referred for trial at the assizes, and the number of those actually tried:—

1870.

Districts.	No. of Cases sent for trial.	No. of Cases tried.	No. of Cases returned to Magistrate for disposal.	No. of Cases not prosecuted.
Port Louis - - - -	26	13	8	5
Pamplemousses - - -	24	10	7	6
Flacq - - - - - -	16	10	2	4
Black River - - - -	3	2	0	1
Savanne - - - - -	16	8	4	3
Grand Port - - - - -	6	3	1	1
Rivière du Rempart - - -	9	4	3	1
Plaines Wilhems - - - -	8	2	4	2
Moka - - - - - -	6	2	2	1
Island of Rodrigues - - -	1	1	1	0

There were five cases put down for trial, but which were postponed until the present year; and as regarded two accused who were to have been tried, the Crown entered a "Nolle prosequi."

This Table shows that there were 55 cases referred for trial, but which it was decided not to bring to the assizes, 31 of which were sent back on reduced charges to the magistrate; and 24 in which

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the evidence was not considered such as to warrant the cases being prosecuted against the accused.

5. The nationality or race of the offenders tried at the assizes during the past year was as follows:—

Indians - - -	73
Ex-apprentices - - -	6
Arabs - - - -	2
Chinese - - - -	1
English - - -	1
Americans - - -	2

Making in all 85 accused, 68 of whom were convicted, 15 found not guilty, and two against whom the Crown did not proceed with the prosecution.

6. There were unfortunately several cases of a severe nature tried during the year.

In 1869 there were only five persons found guilty of murder and attempt at murder, and seven of manslaughter and attempt at manslaughter; whereas in 1870 there were no less than seven persons found guilty on the former charges, and ten on the latter, and of those who were convicted for the offences of manslaughter six were put upon their trial for the graver crime.

It cannot be denied that there is a great reluctance on the part of juries in Mauritius to find guilty of murder and attempt of murder. This I can only attribute to a feeling which exists among many of the community regarding the question of capital punishment, for the evidence in the cases above alluded to appeared to bear out fully the charges brought against the accused.

7. In the five cases of murder where the parties were found guilty, they were all, in compliance with the law, sentenced to death, but in the two cases of attempt at murder the sentence was commuted to twenty years' imprisonment with hard labour, and circumstances permitted of the same mercy being extended to three who were convicted of murder. It was, however, considered necessary that the extreme penalty of the law should be inflicted on two others who were found guilty of the crime, and these were accordingly executed.

8. There were also several severe cases of assault, and in eight instances death was the result.

With respect to this class of offence, it is frequently asserted that the continuance of fever among us gives rise to disease of the spleen, and that cases on this account often end seriously which otherwise would not do so. There is no doubt that the Indian population, among whom offences of this description very frequently occur, is not less subject to malarious fever than that of other races, and though not affected by it to the same extent as a year or two ago, when it was so prevalent throughout the Island, there are still constantly cases in which the medical evidence proves a diseased spleen caused by that malady.

9. There were four cases of rape and one of attempt upon chastity, in which five accused were found guilty and two acquitted. In cases of this description, unless the evidence be very conclusive it is difficult to obtain convictions, for the laxity of morals among the lower classes

of the population frequently gives rise to doubts as to the legal guilt of those charged.

10. There were seven cases of burglary, one of highway robbery, one of larceny with violence, and one of domestic larceny tried during tke year.

It is perhaps worthy of remark that in this class of cases where Indians are the accused, they are generally of the Madras population; whereas in charges of murder, manslaughter, and other serious assaults the offenders are usually of the Calcutta tribe.

11. There were four cases of arson, in which six accused were charged, four of whom were found guilty and two acquitted.

As regards this offence, I think there can be little doubt but that the Ordinance No. 5 of 1869 has worked beneficially. Previous to its becoming law, twenty years' imprisonment was the minimum punishment which could be inflicted for arson; juries were then most reluctant to find verdicts of guilty; but as this Ordinance has reduced the minimum punishment to four years, there is not the same reason to apprehend that feelings of mercy may override the dictates of justice, or that verdicts warranted by the evidence will not be returned.

12. There was one case of bigamy tried during the year, in which the accused who was convicted of the offence was committed from the island of Rodrigues.

There was one case of fraudulent bankruptcy, one of embezzlement, one of forgery, and one of swindling brought to trial, in all of which convictions were obtained.

13. In one case a young boy was found guilty of placing a stone on the railway lines, and he was sentenced by the presiding judge to three years' detention at the Reformatory.

14. As I have already mentioned in this Report, charges of a serious nature have been more numerous during 1870 than during 1869, or even during any of the three previous years.

It is difficult to say what has caused the increase of such offences, but the considerable excess of the male to the female population among the Indians, may perhaps be considered as a reason for the frequency of certain crimes.

Cases of murder and manslaughter are sometimes the result of robbery and plunder, but far oftener originate from causes of jealousy or disputes about women among the Indians. There is a common custom of selling their female children first to one man and afterwards to another, according to the bargains they can make.

This necessarily gives rise to much quarrelling and jealousy; and the men, often exasperated at the unfaithfulness of the women, either inflict upon them a fatal blow, or at times take their revenge upon others whom they may consider the cause of their wrong.

15. The cases tried at the assizes during the past year have been of the usual description, and with the exception of the observations above made, there is nothing which calls for any particular notice on my part.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) G. B. COLIN,

June 26, 1871. Procureur-General.

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Enclosure 9 in No. 4.

Enclosure 9 in No. 4.

REPORT of the ADMINISTRATION of the POOR LAW during the six months ending 31st December, 1870.

Being called upon to submit a Report on the working of the Poor Law during the latter half of the year 1870, in order that the following Annual Report of the Poor Law Commission may have reference to the whole of the year 1871, and may pass in review the whole of the period for which the last estimates of revenue and expenditure were framed by the Commission, I have the honour to present the following remarks:—

2. Having merely to establish a connecting link between the last Annual Report and the next one, I shall confine my observations to a bare exposition of the financial working of the institution on the one hand, and, on the other, to a summary recapitulation of the paupers admitted or discharged, of those who died, and of the numbers remaining in the various Poor Law Establishments at the close of the year 1870.

3. The revenue of the Commission during the six months under review amounted to 14,396*l.* 14*s.* 4½*d.*, and came from the following sources:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. Customs - - - - - - -	10,716	2	4
2. Extra duty on colonial spirits - - -	3,441	8	8
3. Poor rates due to former Poor Relief Boards	16	10	0
4. Miscellaneous receipts (treatment of private patients, sale of gunnies, &c.) - -	222	13	4½

4. The total expenditure amounted to 15,561*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*, exceeding the half-yearly revenue by 1,164*l.* 14*s.* 2½*d.*; but, besides the current expenses, the payments included the whole of the balance due to the Savings Bank. The loan received from that establishment in 1869 has thus been entirely refunded.

5. The balances at the end of the year stood as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. In hands of Colonial Treasurer - - - -	349	0	0½
2. „ President of Poor Law Commission	400	0	0
Total - - - - - - -	£749	0	0½

* Not printed.

6. The details of the expenditure are given in the Statement A,* herewith submitted.

7. The admissions, discharges, and deaths of pauper patients in the Poor Law hospitals and dispensaries, and the numbers remaining at the end of the year, are shown in Statement B.†

† Not printed.

8. The numbers remaining under treatment, compared to those reported as being in the hospitals and dispensaries on the 30th June previous, were as follows:—

HOSPITALS.

	June 30, 1870.	December 31, 1870.
Port Louis	29	12
Pamplemousses	84	57
Flacq	12	22
Rivière du Rempart	5	5
Black River	—	—
Plaines Wilhems	82	45
Moka	—	—
Grand Port	61	39
Savanne	12	20

DISPENSARIES.

	June 30, 1870.	December 31, 1870.
Port Louis	276	3
Pamplemousses	21	26
Flacq	101	49
Rivière du Rempart	8	6
Black River	18	20
Plaines Wilhems	11	24
Moka	45	21
Grand Port	396	195
Savanne	99	1

9, 466 paupers were receiving in-door relief at the Barkly Asylum at the end of the year. The statement marked C* shows how they were distributed, and establishes comparisons with the numbers exhibited by the Report for the year 1869. In the total number there was a decrease of 19; but since the beginning of this year the admissions have raised the total above 500: the present number of inmates is 522.

* Not printed.

10. The total mortality of the Asylum in the half-year now reviewed was 88; in the previous six months it had amounted to 120.

11. The general state of health of the inmates at the close of the year was very satisfactory, especially with regard to the children, who were entirely free from sickness; there was not a single case amongst them requiring hospital treatment. The very small proportion of sick amongst the children here, compared to the large number of admissions into the hospital of the Powder Mills Asylum, suggests some inquiry into the causes of the difference.

12. That inquiry the Commissioners propose to make before the end of the present year, so that they may be able to explain its results in their next Annual Report, in which they will also offer their opinion on the operation of the present system of poor relief, and suggest such changes therein as may to them seem desirable.

(Signed) H. N. D. BEYTS,
President of the Poor Law Commission.

September 13, 1871.

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Enclosure 10 in No. 4.

Enclosure 10 in No. 4.

ANNUAL REPORT on the LEGISLATION of the Year 1870.

The laws promulgated in the Colony during the year 1870, show that marked attention was given by the authorities to the considerationof matters connected with the public health, on which subject no less than fifteen laws of divers classes were introduced.

The most important of these measures was the Ordinance No. 11, intituled "An Ordinance to amend the laws relating to the Public "Health."

The object of this Ordinance was twofold. First, to provide a broad scheme for the proper administration of the laws which relate to the public health; and secondly, to create a fund which would enable the authorities entrusted with the administration of such laws to carry into execution the plans which would be judged the best and most practical to secure the contemplated ends.

Very divergent opinions and many conflicting notions as to the best mode of operating had to be considered and weighed, and ultimately this Ordinance was passed upon the principle that a Board, named the General Board of Health, should have practically the supreme control of the sanitary law; and it is evident that very large powers were thus vested in a body appointed by the Chief of the Executive certainly, but, once appointed, acting in a great measure independently of the Executive.

My own view, if it had fallen to my lot to bring in the Ordinance, instead of taking it up when some of the most important principles involved in its enactments had already been carried, would have been to leave in the hands of the Governor in Executive Council all the powers entrusted to the General Board of Health, the details of execution being left to men appointed for the purpose in every district, and certainly to dispense with local Boards, which had been tried, and had failed deplorably.

I conceive that a medical officer deprived of private practice, as contemplated for the future by the Ordinance, but in whom would have been united the powers at present held by divers medical practitioners, all however engaged in private practice, might have been adopted at once, and that medical men would have been for each district the chief sanitary executive officers under the control and regulation of the Governor in Council; the loss to the Treasury, which might have been met out of the revenue raised by the sanitary tax, would have been of no great amount, and would naturally dwindle by degrees. Of this scheme it is unnecessary to say more, since, after all, the whole tenor of the Ordinance went to show that the General Board of Health was intended to have the supervision of the whole machinery; and although stoutly and strongly opposed, the principle was accepted by the majority of the Council.

The second point was whether the revenue should be raised by direct or indirect taxation.

The plan proposed and ultimately carried was, that a capitation tax of four shillings per annum should be levied, but the tax as to householders, proprietors, and others was supposed to increase.

Whilst the Ordinance was before the Board, sections were added to meet that class of persons who, although wealthy, were neither proprietors of lands or houses nor pay rent, and yet do not receive a fixed salary or remuneration, a class though not numerous, still probably more numerous than might be primâ facie supposed. In fact, the proposed scheme was a kind of concentration of a capitation and income tax, resting upon the double standard of salary and locative value of premises held or occupied.

The plan, if carried out in its entirety, would, I believe, in spite of evasions, which must almost invariably be expected, have produced a fund sufficient, if well handled and properly applied, to meet the sanitary exigencies of the Colony.

The question whether direct or indirect taxation would be resorted to had thus been resolved by the Ordinance in favour of direct taxation, not that the circumstances of the Colony make the application of indirect taxation in its ultimate results so burdensome as it may be in Europe, but because in this case it was right that all should contribute to a scheme calculated to benefit all, the poor still more than the rich—the lower classes, usually less provident and more ignorant, still more than the higher classes.

But as this Ordinance has not, in the shape it was issued, received the sanction of Her Majesty, and as it is possible that the subject may before long be again brought forward with certain additions or modifications considered by his Lordship to be just and reasonable, I believe it is unnecessary to do more than (as I have done) give the sketch of its objects, of its tendency, and the main principle which it contained.

In the interest of public health, advantage was taken of the opportunity of the introduction of a draft law, which had been demanded by the agricultural community, for exempting from Custom dues substances generally used as deodorizing disinfectants; it being considered expedient to encourage the importation of these articles. The Act by which this twofold object was effected is the Ordinance No. 8, intituled "An Ordinance to abolish the duties of Customs "upon substances imported into Mauritius for agricultural and sani-"tary purposes."

A proper check was raised to the importation of damaged rice and other grain and alimentary substances, by sanitary regulations framed by the General Board of Health, and promulgated by Proclamation No. 28, (for which Proclamation No. 33 was afterwards substituted). In virtue of this law, certain alimentary substances are examined at the time of importation by a competent Government officer and if found to be damaged or otherwise unwholesome, they are rendered unfit for food by deodorization or artificial deterioration. These measures are of importance in a place like Mauritius, where rice may be said to be the principal article of food of nine-tenths of the population.

By Proclamations Nos. 8 and 29, divers localities in the rural districts of the Island were declared to be villages within the meaning of the Sanitary Ordinance, No. 18 of 1860, a formality necessary to bring those places within the scope of certain parts of the law on public health, and especially to compel the inhabitants to comply with the

MAURITIUS.

sections concerning drains, privies, &c.; and regulations more stringent and effective than those formerly in force, relative to the night-soil service of the town of Port Louis, were brought into operation by the Proclamation No. 35.

In July, 1870, the 20th Regiment arrived at Mauritius, having measles prevalent among the children, and as a measure of precaution the new comers were placed in quarantine on shore at "Tonnelier's "Island" and "Cannonier's Point." The Proclamations Nos. 15 and 16 and 24 constituted those places into temporary quarantine stations.

The refusal of a passenger who had undergone quarantine to reimburse to the Government the cost of rations supplied to him during his sequestration, brought about the Proclamation No. 17, which removes all doubt as to the liability of persons in such cases. It also deals with the obligation of masters of vessels in quarantine to lodge and provide food for the sanitary guards placed on board, to ensure a strict compliance with the law.

The Proclamations Nos. 36, 37, 38 and 39, as well as the measures published by the Government notice No. 184 of 1st December, 1870, gave a more effectual application to our quarantine laws in general; but their special aim was to prevent the introduction of cholera from Madagascar by means of vessels trading regularly between that country and Mauritius.

Such is the long list of laws introduced on the subject of public health in the course of last year, and I may add that except the Ordinance No. 11, which has not yet come into operation, much good has certainly been done and much evil probably avoided by their means.

An amendment of some importance was made on our criminal law by the Ordinance No 15, intituled "An Ordinance to amend the "laws relating to the consequences of Penal Judgments."

The Colonial penal code provided as one of its punishments, awardable even for comparatively minor offences, interdiction for life, or for a term, of civic, civil, and family rights; and although in practice offenders were not sentenced by the Courts to these disabilities, they were sometimes incurred under the civic code, which also recognized civil death.

This system resulted in most cases in inconvenience and loss, not upon the criminal himself, but upon his innocent wife and family.

The enactment now under notice abolishes civil death, and only admits of the offender being condemned to civic, civil, or family disability in cases of serious crime, and when the judge shall make it part of the sentence. Due provision is made for the administration, by the persons best qualified for the task, of the property of convicts, as also the property of persons who, having failed to surrender to justice have been outlawed, and who, like convicts, are unable to watch over their own interests in person.

Ordinance No. 9, intituled "An Ordinance to authorize the Governor "in Executive Council to appoint Provisional Judges of the "Supreme Court in certain cases of lawful Recusation."

This law was brought before the Council of Government pursuant

to directions received from the Secretary of State, that effect should be given to one of the recommendations of the special committee of the Legislative Council with regard to the mode of replacing judges of the Supreme Court whenever, by the lawful recusation of one or more of them, the legal quorum of judges could not be obtained.

Ordinance No. 12, intituled "An Ordinance to punish the enticing "away and harbouring of wives of Indian immigrants."

The law which formerly punished offences of this nature was the Ordinance No. 3 of 1856, which also regulated the civic status of married immigrants coming to Mauritius; and as it was intended to repeal that Ordinance by a consolidated law on civil status, the Ordinance No. 12 was passed to keep in force certain provisions which could not properly be included in the law on civil status. Advantage was taken of this occasion to remedy these provisions on certain points which experience had indicated, the principal of which were that the costly intervention of the Supreme Court in such matters was rendered unnecessary by giving the district magistrates jurisdiction therein, and that all natives of India, whether coming to Mauritius at their own expense as passengers, or being introduced here under the immigration laws, should benefit by the Ordinance.

Ordinance No. 4, intituled "An Ordinance to authorize the levying "of dues on vessels passing the Great Basses Lighthouse, and "Little Basses Light-ship, Ceylon;" and

Ordinance No. 14, intituled "An Ordinance to amend Ordinance "No. 4 of 1870, intituled 'An Ordinance to authorize the "'levying of dues on vessels passing the Great Basses Light-"'house and Little Basses Light-ship.'"

By a Royal Order in Council of November 11th, 1869, the dues payable by certain vessels on behalf of the light-ship at the Little Basses Rock, Ceylon, were abolished, and an increased rate of charges was made leviable to meet the joint expenses of that light-ship and of a lighthouse which had recently been erected on the Great Basses Rock, Ceylon.

The Ordinance No. 4 was passed to legalize the collection of those dues in Mauritius, and the Ordinance No. 14 was enacted out of a direction received from the Secretary of State, that all ships of war or of state, whether belonging to Her Majesty or to any foreign country, should be exempted from the payment of such dues.

Ordinance No. 3, intituled "An Ordinance to extend the jurisdic-"tion of the district magistrates in Mauritius and its dependen-"cies in matters relating to Acts of Parliament extending to this "Colony."

Doubts have been raised as to whether in point of law the district magistrates of the Colony were individually entitled to entertain charges brought before them for breaches of Imperial Statutes, whereby it was provided that the penalties thereunder were to be recovered before one or more Justices of the Peace, as it was possible that the ends of justice might be defeated on these grounds in any

case based on the Mutiny or Passenger Acts or other Statutes liable to be invoked in the Colony, the Ordinance No. 3 was brought in to give to each district magistrate power to exercise, in the application of any Act of Parliament in force in Mauritius, the jurisdiction assigned to one or more Justices of the Peace.

Ordinance No. 1, intituled "An Ordinance to provide for the require-
"ments of the Roman Catholic parish of Notre Dame de la
"Dehirande, in the district of Pamplemousses;" and

Ordinance No. 2, intituled "An Ordinance for authorizing an
"advance to be made from the Colonial Treasury for reparing
"the church and presbytery of the Roman Catholic parish of
"St. Sauveur, in the district of Black River."

These Ordinances were framed at the request of the Roman Catholic inhabitants of two districts to provide the funds necessary to enable them to re-construct and repair the buildings set apart for the purposes of their religion in each of those districts. The means adopted, namely, that of levying upon the inhabitants of the Roman Catholic persuasion in the district an addition to the taxes paid by them, though objectionable in some respects, is based on numerous precedents in our legislation, and has been found to be the most convenient and practicable. The passing of special Ordinances to meet such cases will cease on the contemplated revision of the laws relative to the temporalities of the Roman Catholic Church.

Ordinance No. 5, intituled "An Ordinance to declare the three
"days following the arrival in the Colony of His Royal Highness
"the Duke of Edinburgh to be public holidays, and to post-
"pone the opening of the second session of the assizes to the
"14th day of June, 1870;" and

Ordinance No. 6, intituled "An Ordinance to amend Ordinance
"No. 5 of 1870, intituled 'An Ordinance to declare the three
"'days following the arrival in the Colony of His Royal Highness
"'the Duke of Edinburgh to be public holidays, and to post-
"'pone the opening of the second session of the assizes to the
"'14th day of June, 1870.'"

As shown by their titles, these laws were introduced on the occasion of the visit to Mauritius of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. The second law was passed to make some changes rendered necessary by the fact of His Royal Highness not having reached the Colony until some days after the date at which his arrival had been expected.

Ordinance No. 7, intituled "An Ordinance to amend the law regard-
"ing the registers of dealers in gold and silver wares."

The calling of workers or dealers in gold and silver affords them so many facilities for the reception and concealment of stolen valuables, that for years past the law of the Colony (Ordinance No. 19 of 1855) had laid upon them the obligation of keeping, for the inspection of the police, a register of each purchase or sale made by them;

of late, however, these artisans, who are all of the Asiatic races, had effectually defeated the object of this requirement by making the entries in their registers in Oriental languages, which are unknown to the police here, instead of in the English or French languages, as was formerly the practice among them. Ordinance No. 7 was passed to render obligatory the keeping of the registers in one or other of the latter languages.

Ordinance No. 13, intituled "An Ordinance to legalize the collection of certain sums, which have been received without due authority of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis."

In the year 1860, the municipal corporation of Port Louis brought into the town an abundant supply of water, the works connected with which had occasioned to them a large outlay of money; and in July, 1861, the corporation made certain regulations, whereby proprietors not having purchased a share of water for their houses had to pay a small water-rate for the water they took from the fountains, which had just been erected in all parts of the town.

By some oversight on the part of the corporation, these regulations were not submitted, as required by law, for the approval of the Governor, and they were therefore illegal. During several years the rate continued to be paid and the proceeds were spent for the legitimate purposes of the corporation; at last the informality above mentioned was discovered, and the rate was no longer claimed. It was necessary, however, to protect the corporation from any claims that might arise for the refund of the sums so levied and expended, and the Ordinance No. 13 was brought into Council with that object.

By Proclamation No. 1 the law which had already abolished in Mauritius imprisonment for debt was made applicable to the Islands of Seychelles and Rodrigues, dependencies of the Colony; and by Proclamation No. 5, portions of the law of Mauritius relating to masters and servants were extended with modifications to the Island of Rodrigues, a measure which had long been needed there.

In execution of the Building Act Ordinance 6 of 1869, and with a view to the prevention of conflagrations, the Governor declared by the Proclamation No. 6 what goods and merchandise should be considered as dangerous goods, and what was the maximum quantity which could be lawfully kept in ordinary shops, stores, &c. Some difficulty was experienced by large dealers in these goods in obtaining stores sufficiently isolated from other dwellings to warrant the municipal corporation in issuing to them special licences for the storing of dangerous goods in unlimited quantities, and on this account it was found necessary twice to postone (Proclamations No. 13 and 21) the coming into force of the Proclamation No. 6.

Several branch roads and other thoroughfares, the maintenance of which fell to the surrounding inhabitants, had been allowed to get into so bad a condition that the traffic thereon was attended with numerous accidents; but the law contained no provision compelling the inhabitants to keep those ways in a good state of repair, though it provided efficient machinery for this being done wherever the inhabitants should choose to combine together to incur the necessary expenditure. A practical remedy to this evil was brought about by

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the Proclamation No. 27, under which such roads may be closed until properly repaired.

One of the principal sections of the Ordinance No. 17 of 1869, regulating the practice of pharmacy and the sale of poisons, was brought into operation by the establishment of the regulations published by the Government Notice, No. 44, of 12th April, 1870, prescribing the mode and bases of the examination to be passed by candidates for diplomas, enabling them to practice in the Colony as dispensing chemists.

From time to time, throughout the year, there were published several postal regulations, amending, in compliance with advices received from the home authorities, the charges on letters despatched from the Colony.

The following laws not emanating from the local Legislature were promulgated in the Colony, namely :—

1st. Those sections of the Mutiny Act, 33 Vict. cap. 7, which concern the general public.

2nd. The Royal Proclamation of 19th July, 1870, making current in the Colony the new French coins of one and two francs.

3rd. The Foreign Enlistment Act, 1870.

4th. The Convention of Commerce of 30th December, 1869, between Her Majesty and the Emperor of Austria.

5th. The Royal Order in Council of 31st March, 1870, establishing Rules of Practice for Proctors, &c., in Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council.

6th. The Royal Order in Council of 18th May, 1870, relating to the civil status laws of the Colony.

7th. The Royal Proclamation of Neutrality as to the Franco-Prussian War, dated 19th July, 1870.

8th. The Royal Order in Council of 17th August, 1870, giving notice of a convention having been made with the United States as to renunciation of naturalization under the the Act of 1870.

9th. The Royal Proclamation of 9th August, 1870, embodying extracts from the Foreign Enlistment Act, 1870.

10th. Those sections of the Statute 29 and 30 Vict., cap. 109 (Navy Discipline), which concern the general public.

Before closing this Report, I have the honour to state that in reviewing the laws brought out during the year 1870, I have departed somewhat from the plan adopted by my predecessors in similar cases, which was to limit the scope of the Report to the Ordinances passed by the Council of Government of the Colony, leaving unnoticed all other legislative matters. I conceive however, that to obtain a proper appreciation of the additions made to our law books during the past year it is needful to draw attention not only to our Ordinances, but to the laws of all other classes which, as is apparent in the foregoing pages, form an important supplement to the more formal legislation of that period; and I trust his Excellency will be pleased to approve of my having drawn up this Report on the broader plan just mentioned.

(Signed) G. B. COLIN,
Proc.-General.

May 20, 1871.

SEYCHELLES.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Honourable A. H. GORDON, C.M.G., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 143.) Government House, Mahé, Seychelles,
MY LORD, September 22, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, the Annual Blue Book returns from this dependency, together with the Report of the Civil Commissioner, for the past year.

2. That Report your Lordship will find by no means uninteresting. It contains a record of rapid progress and improvement, and I see no reason to anticipate that the further development of these dependencies is likely to be arrested.

3. There are only two points on which I wish to add a few words to the Report of the Civil Commissioner.

4. He has hardly done sufficient justice to the "establishment of "the Sisters of St. Joseph for the education of female children."

In that school from 300 to 350 children are educated for the most part gratuitously, and are brought under civilizing influences by which they would not otherwise be reached.

The "College" of the Christian Brothers is also of a very superior character to what might be expected in so remote a locality as the Seychelles.

5. The Civil Commissioner, from an unwillingness probably to exalt unduly his own work, has not attributed to the pier which he has constructed all the importance it deserves.

When completed it cannot fail to render this port one of far more frequent resort than it at present is. This work has hitherto been carried on at a comparatively small expense, and under difficulties which the Civil Commissioner deserves the utmost credit for having overcome.

I have, &c.,
The Earl of Kimberley, (Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1870.

Seychelles, Civil Commissioner's Office,
SIR, March 6, 1871.

I have the honour to forward herewith the annual returns for the Blue Book.

Conditions and Prospects.

2. I have the pleasure to report to your Excellency that the prosperity of this dependency has greatly increased during the past year,

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and bids fair to do so more rapidly, as the cocoanut plantations, nearly at maturity, and others come into bearing, together with the tracts of land devoted to tobacco and sugar-cane.

3. The trade in cocoanut-oil, tobacco, cotton, and vacoa bags is assuming much larger proportions.

	Oil.	Tobacco.	Vacoa Bags.	Cotton.
	Gallons.	lbs.		lbs.
In 1870 - - - - - -	189,820	27,796	141,842	15,332
In 1869 - - - - - - -	127,112	9,973	52,677	10,485
Showing an increase of - -	62,708	17,823	89,165	4,847

Exports and Imports.

4. The total value of exports for 1870 is 31,233*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*; for 1869, 23,469*l.* 4*s.*, showing an increase of 7,764*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

There is really a much larger increase, tobacco having been valued in the present report at 2*s.* per pound instead of 4*s.* in 1869; other articles also at much lower rates than in that year.

5. The value of imports for 1870 is 46,276*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*; for previous year, 30,564*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*, showing an increase of 15,711*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*

Revenue and Expenditure.

6. The detailed revenue collected at Seychelles for 1870 is 5,858*l.* 8*s.* 5¾*d.*; for previous year, 4,322*l.* 2*s.* 6¼*d.*, showing an increase of 1,536*l.* 5*s.* 11½*d.*

7. The expenditure at Seychelles for 1870 amounts to 6,869*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*; for previous year to 5,797*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, showing an increase of 1,072*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*

8. To the amount of revenue collected at Seychelles should, in all fairness, be added the amount of duties paid at Mauritius on goods imported there, forwarded to and consumed at Seychelles, which, according to calculations based upon the manifests of all the vessels who came to this port from Mauritius during the past year are estimated at 2,223*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, making a total approximate revenue of 8,081*l.* 18*s.* 7¾*d.*, against (in 1869) 6,093*l.* 10*s.* 0¼*d.*, showing an increase of 1,988*l.* 8*s.* 7½*d.*

9. His Excellency the late Governor, Sir Henry Barkly, K.C.B., in a Despatch, No. 204, 29th of August, 1866, to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, published in the Blue Book of 1867, in forwarding the Civil Commissioner's Report on Seychelles, allows that the before-mentioned duties should be credited to the revenue, but observes that no authentic data exists for deciding the much-vexed question of whether the Sychelles group is a burden to the mother Colony or not, I would most respectfully submit that if masters of merchant vessels enter on their manifests the quantities and descriptions of goods contained in the various packages shipped from Mauritius to Seychelles, the exact amount of duties paid on those goods can be ascertained and carried to the credit of this dependency; for although the trade between it and the present

Colony is called a coasting trade, and the dependency sometimes a district, still there are certain modifications; for instance, a duty being charged at Mauritius of 4*d.* a pound on tobacco imported from Seychelles, which is not the case on tobacco brought in from different districts of that Island to Port Louis.

10. Should this suggestion relative to the manifests be carried out, I am convinced that it would plainly show, that instead of being considered a burden, Seychelles would be an assistance and an advantage to the mother Colony, containing as it does a population estimated at over 13,000, consuming the goods imported from Mauritius, as if they were inhabitants of a district of that Island, and who will, when the Ordinances extended to Seychelles come into force, be paying the same duties on goods imported from other parts of the world.

11. The increase in the expenditure for the past year (1,072*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*) is owing to an augmentation of the police force, a pension granted to an old public servant retiring, the keep of more than double the number of prisoners, 300*l.* voted towards the construction of a new Custom House, the purchase of a new pratique boat, the construction of the road through a very difficult country, building of bridges, and keeping up the public buildings, some of which still need heavy repairs.

Public Works.

12. Among the public works may be mentioned the gaol, which had barely proper accommodation for 50 prisoners, and was in so dilapidated a condition that they could escape from it at pleasure. It has been almost rebuilt, and so much extended that from 120 to 130 prisoners can now be comfortably and securely lodged.

13. About seven miles of road have been kept in repair, and two miles constructed, passing in some places through enormous masses of rock, involving the boring of 3,160 feet of mines for blasting purposes.

14. About 800 feet of a pier, 20 feet wide, solidly built of granite and coral, has been run out in the sea, towards the edge of the reef bounding the inner harbour, which, when completed to about 2,800 feet, most probably by the end of the present year, will enable vessels of the largest tonnage to lay alongside.

15. 200 feet of the old "Chantier Pier" has also been repaired, as it is the only landing-place at present with deep water.

Harbour.

16. The harbour has been resurveyed, the true positions of the shoals ascertained, buoys laid down, and beacons erected, so that vessels can now easily enter without the aid of pilots; for although many of the coral banks in the neighbourhood of Mahé, and the other islands, have grown up considerably, the soundings of 8 fathoms to 13, as laid down in the Admiralty chart of the roadstead and harbour of Port Victoria (in which there is safe anchorage for any number of vessels of the largest tonnage), have experienced but little change, the bottom being composed of stiff whitish clay.

Shipping.

17. 58 merchant vessels have entered and cleared in the Custom House, which, with 23 mail steamers and 29 men-of-war that have visited the port during the past year, make an aggregate tonnage of 45,432.

18. Several vessels have also been added to those belonging to Port Victoria that ply regularly to Mauritius and other places in the neighbourhood.

Improvements.

19. The town has been considerably improved: 24 new houses built, some of them solidly in stone and coral; among which a large commodious hotel for the convenience of passengers coming from the mail steamers or other ports to await their arrival.

20. A fountain which supplies the Roman Catholic College and the inhabitants in the upper part of the town, free of charge, has been erected at the junction of Royal and Barkly Streets, materially adding to their comfort and cleanliness, as the overflow available for washing purposes is carried down the side of the former street.

21. The "Chaussée" or esplanade at the north end of the town, has been extended, and a substantial bridge thrown across the river "Moussa" adjoining the new road now in course of construction, towards the north end of the island.

Crime.

22. There has been an absence of all serious crime, but the number of prisoners has been greatly augmented owing to the Vagrant Act being energetically carried out.

Health.

23. The general health of the inhabitants has been good, the death rate contrasting favourably with former years, when the population was much smaller. The births have amounted to 422 and the deaths to 182.

24. The mortality has been principally among the young, from bowel complaint caused by the water brought down from the mountains in the rainy season being impregnated with vegetable matter; this will be much ameliorated in the town by the establishment of fountains, and the water being conveyed through iron pipes.

Population.

25. Without actually taking a census, I sent trustworthy persons at the close of the year 1869 to ascertain as near as possible the population of these islands: the result was 13,000.

26. To this, there has been of course, some augmentation, but as a regular census is to be taken by Ordinance shortly, correct statements will be included in the statistics for the next Blue Book.

Schools.

27. There is at Victoria a Roman Catholic college for the education of boys, and an establishment of Sisters of "St. Joseph" for the education of female children.

28. There is also a Protestant school connected with the church in Victoria, and two others in the west side of the island; there is also a school connected with the Protestant church at Praslin, but one is much required at La Digue, where there are a considerable number of young children.

Distilleries.

29. At Frigate Island, the most fertile in the group, the soil is of the richest description, being composed of nearly pure guano to a depth of several feet; the sugar-cane flourishes luxuriantly. Here is the principal distillery of Seychelles, having produced during past year about 5,000 gallons of rum. There is another distillery at Mahé producing about 2,000.

30. The rum is not, as has been supposed, consumed by the crews of H.M. ships visiting this port, but the inhabitants themselves; the former preferring beer and the more expensive liquors imported from Europe, mostly viâ Mauritius.

31. The revenue from the duty on this article has been increased by 713*l.* during the past year, and may be estimated at much more, now that the duty is the same at Mauritius.

Charitable Institutions.

32. When the hospital is placed on a proper footing, and an efficient poor relief fund established, the sick poor, and those unable to work, will receive proper care and attention, which is now impossible, from only one medical man being on the island, and the distance between the different plantations precluding his visiting them.

Liberated Africans.

33. The continued importation of liberated African slaves, under proper restrictions, will materially add to the prosperity of this dependency, which has greatly increased in importance since the opening of the Suez Canal, being in the track of vessels from India and China, and offering as it does a most eligible situation for a sanitorium of H.M. ships in the Indian seas, and for a naval depôt.

General Remarks.

34. During a visit I paid to the principal islands of this dependency last year, I observed considerable progress in some of them, and I believe that most of the apathy hitherto existing is by degrees being shaken off, no doubt from the people seeing the increased demands for the productions of the islands, and the additional comfort obtainable by those industriously inclined; several enterprising men

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from Mauritius and other places have also settled amongst them, and commenced business.

35. At the Island of "Silhouette" the cocoanut establishments are on a very large scale, the buildings of a most substantial description, the iron roofs imported from Europe. The African labourers are housed in comfortable cottages, and appeared contented and happy.

36. The Island of "Félicité" is very valuable to Government, as all the wood required for the public works at Mahé is cut from the forest of splendid timber on that island; the cocoanut-trees that have been, and are still being, planted will in a few years produce a considerable revenue.

37. The plantations at Mahé are increasing rapidly, and at several of them the Africans are as well lodged and cared for as labourers in Europe.

38. A sugar plantation and mill has been established, and is producing profitably.

39. I hope, with the kind assistance of your Excellency in carrying out further improvements, to report with the next Blue Book returns still further increase and prosperity of the dependency under my charge.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. A. H. Gordon, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) W. H. FRANKLYN,
Civil Commissioner.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

No. 5.

(No Report had been received at the time of going to press.)

LONDON:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

REPORTS

ON THE

PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS

For the Year 1870.

PART III.

NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES; AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA; AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND; AND THE MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS, &c.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
1872.

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1872.

[C.—617.] *Price* 1*s*.

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DOMINION OF CANADA.

No. 1.

(No General Report on the state of the Dominion for the year 1870 has been received; but many useful particulars are contained in the "Further Correspondence respecting Emigration," presented to Parliament, July, 1872 [*C.*—614].)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 2.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor ROBINSON to the EARL OF KIMBERLEY

(No. 87.)

Government House, Prince Edward Island,
December 27, 1871.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Blue of Prince Edward Island for 1870, the preparation of which has been delayed by the non-completion of the printed commercial returns.

2. Some years having elapsed since the Blue Book was reported upon in detail, or the Colony described, for the information of those at a distance I beg leave on this occasion to submit the following remarks:—

PART I.

GENERAL.

1. Prince Edward Island, situated in the southern part of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, and separated from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick by the Strait of Northumberland, which varies from nine to thirty miles in width, is about 130 miles long, from 10 to 34 broad, and contains an area of 2134 square miles.

2. Communication with the neighbouring provinces is kept up, throughout the period of navigation, by means of excellent steamers running tri-weekly from Charlottetown (the capital of the Island) to Pictou in Nova Scotia, and Shediac in New Brunswick. Freight and passenger steamers connect weekly with Quebec and the Gulf ports to the north, and with Halifax and Boston to the south.

3. We are in direct telegraphic communication with Canada, the United States, and, viâ Canada, with Europe; and telegraph offices have been established in the principal towns and settlements of the province.

4. In winter, travelling is attended with considerable discomfort, and the isolation of the island at that season of the year is one of the greatest drawbacks to the place.

5. The navigation generally closes towards the end or middle of December. By the first week in January the harbours, with one exception, are covered with a strong coating of ice, and the colonial

steamers laid up for the winter, not to recommence running, as a rule, until the end of April or the beginning of May. During the winter months mails and passengers are conveyed across the Strait in ice-boats which ply between Cape Traverse in Prince Edward Island, and Cape Tormentin in New Brunswick. The distance across at this point is about nine miles, and the passage occupies from three to eight hours, according to the state of the weather. All male passengers are expected to assist in hauling the ice-boats; female passengers rarely face the transit except in the most favourable weather, and under circumstances of urgent necessity.

6. An Act was passed during the last session of the Legislature providing for the construction of a railway from Charlottetown eastward to Georgetown and Souris, and westward to Alberton and Tignish. In Georgetown harbour, which faces the widest part of Northumberland Strait, the channel remains open nearly a month later, and the ice breaks up in the spring fully a month earlier, than in the harbour of Charlottetown. There is no reason why a steamer, constructed on the principle of those used on the River Saint Lawrence, should not be placed on the route from Georgetown to Pictou in Nova Scotia. This, I hope, will be done, so soon as the railway shall be completed from Charlottetown to Georgetown; and then our steam communication with the neighbouring provinces need not be stopped for more than two months in the year.

7. Charlottetown, the seat of Government, is situated upon a point of rising ground at the confluence of the York and Hillsborough rivers. The town, which contains about 10,000 inhabitants, is well laid out in broad streets intersecting each other other at right angles, and several good sized squares; but in wet weather the streets are almost impassable (crossings and pavements being alike unknown), and the squares, with one exception, are so ill-kept and neglected as to be anything but an ornament to the city. The principal public buildings consist of the Colonial Building, a fine stone edifice erected in 1842, and an equally handsome brick building which has just been completed. The former contains accommodation for the different branches of the Legislature and the public officers of the colony; the latter is intended to be used as a court house and post office. There are numerous churches in the town—Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Bible Christian—but I do not think that any of them can claim to be possessed of much architectural beauty. The private houses are mostly built of wood, but a good many brick buildings have recently been erected, which give a more substantial and regular appearance to the streets, and will contribute to security from fire. The affairs of the city are under the management of a Mayor and Corporation, who maintain a small police force, and supervise generally the business of the municipality. Improvements urgently needed in Charlottetown are good sewerage, a cheap and plentiful supply of wholesome water, macadamized streets, and side-walks.

8. The other chief towns are Georgetown in King's County, and Summerside in Prince County. It was originally intended that Princetown should be the capital of the western district, but not being so well situated with respect to its harbour as are Charlottetown and

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Georgetown, large vessels being unable to approach the shore, Summerside has quite monopolized the business of the county, and is rapidly increasing in appearance and importance. The population of Summerside amounts now to 1,917; that of Georgetown to 1,056.

9. Seen from the water, the appearance of Prince Edward Island is exceedingly prepossessing. On approaching the coast the country affords a charming picture of cultivated and well-wooded land, with villages and cleared farms dotted along the shore, and by the sides of the bays and rivers. The country is everywhere intersected with navigable harbours and tortuous arms of the sea, no part of the island being much more than eight miles from the ebbing and flowing of the tide.

10. The land is generally speaking flat, but rises here and there to a moderate height, without being anywhere so mountainous as to impede the operations of the agriculturist. On the whole the conformation of the island is good; the scenery is home-like and agreeable; while thickly scattered, flourishing homesteads indicate a degree of comfort and prosperity rarely met with in a new country.

PART II.

SOIL.

1. Prince Edward Island is remarkable for the fertility of its soil, and it may be confidently asserted that, with the exception of a few bogs and swamps, composed of a soft spongy turf, or a deep layer of wet black mould, the whole island consists of highly valuable cultivable land. The soil, which is well watered with numerous springs and rivers, is formed for the most part of a rich layer of vegetable matter above a bright loam, resting upon stiff clay and sandstone; the land in its natural state being covered with timber and shrubs of every variety, amongst which the cedar, mountain ash, wild cherry, &c., are conspicuous for their beauty and delicacy of appearance.

2. All kinds of grain and vegetables grown in England ripen here in great perfection, and the following particulars, taken from the census of 1871, will show the general improvement that has taken place in the agricultural condition of the colony during the last ten years; premising, for the purpose of showing of what the land is capable, that two-thirds of the whole are still uncultivated.

3. I have recently received from Dr. Eawson, F.R.S., Principal of McGill University, Montreal, a highly interesting and exhaustive report of geological explorations made by him in July and August of the present year, under the direction of the local Government, and of which I hope to be able to send your Lordship very shortly a printed copy. Meanwhile the following extracts under the heads of Soils and Peat as Fuel will be of interest:—

Soils.—The great wealth of Prince Edward Island consists in its fertile soil, and the preservation of this in a productive state is an object of imperative importance. The ordinary soil of the island is a bright red loam, passing into stiff clay on the one hand and sandy loam on the other. Naturally it contains all the mineral requisites

ACREAGE, FARM STOCK, and IMPLEMENTS.

	1861.	1871.	Increase.	Decrease.
No. of persons holding land	10,741	11,512	771	—
Acres held in fee simple	465,942	697,598	231,656	—
Acres held by lease or agreement for lease	407,169	279,601	—	127,568
Acres held by verbal agreement	38,440	20,931	—	17,509
Occupiers neither freeholders nor leaseholders (squatters)	64,636	30,110	—	34,526
Acres of arable land held by all families	368,127	445,103	76,976	—
Horses	18,765	25,329	6,564	—
Neat cattle	60,012	62,984	2,976	—
Sheep	107,245	147,364	40,119	—
Hogs	38,552	52,514	13,961	—
Threshing machines	856	1,607	751	—
Fanning mills*	—	1,692	—	—
Mowing machines*	—	1,024	—	—
Haymaking machines*	—	578	—	—
Hay elevators*	—	115	—	—
Stumping machines*	—	133	—	—
Mud diggers*	—	1,402	—	—
Other useful machines*	—	2,509	—	—
Carts, trucks, and truck waggons*	—	14,295	—	—
Riding waggons and carriages, wood sleds, and jaunting sleighs*	—	24,884	—	—

* Not previously enumerated.

PRINCIPAL FARM PRODUCTIONS RAISED IN 1860 AND 1870, RESPECTIVELY.

	1860.	1870.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bushels wheat	346,125	269,392	—	76,733
„ buckwheat	50,127	75,109	24,982	—
„ barley	223,195	176,441	—	56,754
„ oats	2,218,578	3,120,576	901,998	—
„ potatoes	2,572,335	3,375,726	803,391	—
„ turnips	348,784	395,358	46,574	—
„ beans*	—	584	—	—
„ peas*	—	741	—	—
„ Indian corn*	—	2,411	—	—
„ Timothy seed*	—	8,645	—	—
„ clover seed	321	3,219	2,898	—
Tons hay	31,088	68,349	37,261	—
Lbs. flax*	—	27,282	—	—
„ butter	711,485	981,939	270,454	—
„ cheese	109,233	155,233	45,990	—

* Not previously enumerated.

for cultivated crops, while its abounding in peroxide of iron enables it rapidly to digest organic manures, and also to retain well their ammoniacal products.

The chief natural manures afforded by the island, and which may be used in addition to the farm manures to increase the fertility of the soil or restore it when exhausted, are—

(1). The mussel mud or oyster shell mud of the bays. Experience has proved this to be of the greatest value.

(2). Peat and marsh mud and swamp soil. These afford organic matters to the run-out soil at a very cheap rate.

(3). Seaweed, which can be obtained in large quantities on many parts of the shore, and is of great manurial value whether fresh or composted.

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(4). Fish offal. The heads and bones of cod are more especially of much practical importance, and should be more carefully preserved than at present.

(5). Limestone. The brown earthy limestones of the island are of much value in affording a supply of this material as well as small quantities of phosphates and alkalies.

Where manures require to be purchased from abroad, those that will be found to produce the greatest effects are those capable of affording phosphates and alkalies, more especially bone earth, superphosphate of lime and guano; but where fish offal and seaweed can be procured in sufficient quantity, or good dressings of the oyster deposit are applied, these foreign aids may well be dispensed with at least for many years.

Peat as Fuel.—The question of fuel is likely, from the rapid disappearance of the forests to be a matter of extreme importance in Prince Edward Island. The cheapness of coal in Nova Scotia, along with the easy transport by water to most parts of the island, and the convenient inland transportation which will be afforded by the railway now in progress, must prevent any serious difficulty; but it is worthy of consideration whether measures should not be taken by the Government for the protection of the remainder of the forests; and whether the time has not come for the utilization of the large deposits of peat existing in some parts of the province.

In European countries, and more recently in Canada and the United States, peat has commanded much attention as cheap and convenient fuel. In its natural state, or merely air-dried, it has been much employed for local consumption, though of very inferior heating power to coal; but when pulped and compressed and thoroughly dried it has been found capable of competing with coal and wood on equal terms both for steam production and domestic use. Charred peat has also become an important article of consumption as a substitute for wood charcoal, and coke. The importance of this subject may be inferred from the following calculations by Dr. Harrington as to the quantity of peat in the three great turbaries noticed under a previous heading:—

			$
Lennox Island Bog,	20,200 tons,	value at $4	80,800·00
Squirrel Creek,	500,000 „	„	2,000,000·00
Black Bank	1,777,248 „	„	7,108,922·00
	2,297,448		$9,189,792·00

Dr. Harrington has made comparative trials of the peat with that in use in Canada with the results stated below, which show that the quality in the case of the largest of the three deposits is excellent, and as the facilities for its extraction and shipment, especially at the Black Bank, are all that could be desired, there can be no doubt that the three deposits above, without mentioning others, are capable of supplying a very large quantity of good fuel. That deserving of attention in the first instance is undoubtedly the Black Bank at Cascumpec, both on account of the readiness of access to it and its good quality. It is also to be observed that another deposit exists in Cascumpec Bay,

and is said to be of great extent, though we had not an opportunity to examine it or to obtain specimens for analysis.

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PART III.

CLIMATE.

1. The climate of Prince Edward Island is remarkably healthy. The cold is certainly much more severe, and lasts for a longer period than in England; but, on the other hand, the atmosphere is dry and salubrious, and the island possesses a summer climate of such brightness and beauty as to compensate, to a great extent, for the long winter and backward spring. An excellent description of the climate was furnished to the Colonial Office by Lieut.-Governor Sir Donald Campbell in 1849, from which I cannot do better than quote the following extracts:—

"The weather generally becomes unsteady in the early part of November, and sometimes sharp frosts with showers of snow take place before the middle of that month, the frost gradually increasing until the ground resists the plough, which is ordinarily about the second week in December. The cold then increases rapidly, and the ground is covered with snow. During the months of January and February the weather is usually steady, with the thermometer occasionally from 10° to 20° below zero of Fahrenheit, but sometimes a thaw takes place, and by laying the ground bare of its winter covering, occasions great inconvenience, Travelling is suspended and becomes difficult, and the hauling of firewood, which is usually accomplished at that period, is prevented. March, as in England, is a windy month, and is throughout very changeable. About the close of this month the snow rapidly melts, and the ice in the rivers and bays becomes rotten and dangerous to pass, and wholly disappears, except in late seasons, about the middle of April. Strong southerly winds now commence, and the last vestiges of frost speedily vanish.

"The spring is short, and in the beginning of June the summer bursts forth, and from this time until the end of September the climate resembles that of the southern coast of England. The thermometer, however, during calm weather, indicates a greater degree of heat, but the sea breeze seldom fails to lower the temperature before the sun reaches the zenith, so that little inconvenience thence arises. About the middle of September the evenings get cool, and the autumn properly commences.

"In Lower Canada the winter is nearly two months longer than in this island, the frosts more severe, and the snows deeper, while the temperature during the summer is equally hot. In Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Cape Breton the frosts are equally severe, the transitions from one extreme of temperature to another is more sudden, with frequent fogs along those parts that border on the Atlantic and the Bay of Fundy.

"Prince Edward Island is almost entirely free from those fogs to which the surrounding countries are subject. This remarkable exemption is accounted for when we consider that the waters which wash the shores of the island do not come in immediate contact with

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those of a different temperature; and that Cape Breton and Newfoundland, both of which are high and mountainous, lying between it and the Atlantic, arrest the fogs which would otherwise be driven from the banks to Prince Edward Island.

"The air is clear and salubrious, and the climate at all seasons is much more healthy than that of the greater part of Upper Canada or the United States, the intermittent fevers of which countries are here of very rare occurrence."

2. I am indebted to Mr. H. J. Cundall, of Charlottetown, for the following meteorological return:—

Month.	Thermometer.				Barometer at 9 A.M.			Warmest day.	Coldest day.	No. of days on which rain or snow fell.	No. of days of strong wind.	Thunder-storms.
	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Range.	Highest.	Lowest.	Range.	Mean temp.	Mean temp.			
January -	15·24	40	-11	51	30·51	29·58	0·93	35·50	-2	11	3	—
February - -	13·74	44	-21	65	30·70	29·07	1·63	36·00	-7·50	5	2	—
March - -	30·87	59	4	55	30·53	29·34	1·19	44·00	17·50	8	6	—
April - -	31·70	68	9	59	30·43	29·60	0·83	47·50	16	11	3	—
May - -	45·48	75	27	48	30·46	29·62	0·84	56·50	35	5	3	1
June - -	54·06	83	33	50	30·40	29·55	0·85	64·50	44	16	1	2
July - -	62·04	83	41	42	30·22	29·72	0·50	69·50	52	7	8	3
August - -	63·42	80	41	39	30·37	29·83	0·54	71·50	51	8	2	1
September - -	52·57	74	29	45	30·33	29·67	0 66	62·50	35	11	3	1
October - -	40·60	57	20	37	30·67	29·41	1·26	52·50	25	11	2	—
November -	32·97	60	14	46	30·70	29·54	1·16	50·00	17·50	14	5	—
December -	21·64	36	- 2	38	30·62	29·30	1·32	32·00	3·50	13	0	—
	38·64	83	-21	104	30·70	29·07	1·63	71·50	-7·50	120	38	8

PART IV.

THE LAND QUESTION.

1. The chief difficulties connected with Prince Edward Island were centered until very recently in a condition of land tenures which were at variance with popular habit and feeling on this side of the Atlantic.

2. Towards the close of the last century this island, various schemes having been proposed for its cultivation and settlement, was parcelled out into sixty-seven townships and granted by the Imperial authorities to individuals having claims on the Government of the day (chiefly officers who had served during the Seven Years' War), on terms and conditions as to settlement which may be thus briefly classified:—

(1). The payment of certain quit-rents, varying according to the several lots from two to six shillings sterling per 100 acres, payable annually on one-half the grant at the expiration of five years, on the whole at the expiration of ten years from the date of the grant.

(2). A reservation of such part of each lot as might afterwards be found necessary for fortifications or public purposes; and of 100 acres for a church and glebe, and 30 acres for a schoolmaster.

(3). A reservation in the grants of certain townships abutting upon the sea-shore, of 500 feet from high-water mark, for the purpose of a free fishery.

(4). A reservation of all mines of gold, silver and coal.

(5). That the grantee of each township should settle the same within ten years from the date of the grant, in the proportion of one person to every 200 acres.

(6). That if one-third of the land was not so settled within four years from the date of the grant the whole should be forfeited.

3. On these terms the original proprietors accepted their grants, Prince Edward Island being at that time attached to the province of Nova Scotia. In the following year (1768) the proprietors petitioned that the island might be erected into a separate Government, undertaking at the same time to defray the expense of it from the quit-rents, and proposing, in order to provide a fund for the purpose, to commence paying their quit-rents at the expiration of three years, instead of five, from the issue of the grants. On this understanding the application of the proprietors for the political separation of the island from Nova Scotia was assented to by the Imperial Government, and the first local Government and Legislature were forthwith organized accordingly. But it was soon found that a fund dependent upon the payment of the quit-rents was entirely too precarious to maintain the local Government, and in 1777 the civil expenditure of the Colony became a charge on the Imperial Exchequer.*

4. During the first ten years the terms of settlement with reference to population were complied with in ten townships, nine others were partially settled, and forty-eight entirely neglected; the persons emigrating under the auspices of the proprietors (who were mostly resident in the mother country) being allowed leases for 999 years on the following conditions:—

First and second year	No rent.
Third year	3*d.* per acre.
Fourth year	6*d.* „
Fifth year	9*d.* „
Sixth year	1*s.* „

to continue for the remainder of the term at one shilling sterling per acre. And thus, in a part of the world where the proprietary system has always been unpopular with the people, and where the easy acquisition of freehold property by those who cultivate the soil is general and expected, was established a state of things as between landlord and tenant, a class warfare, and discontent, which practically retarded the progress and development of the Colony.

5. One would think that leases for 999 years at one shilling an acre, which were readily granted by the landlords to those who were desirous of settling in the Colony, ought to have satisfied the reasonable expectations of persons emigrating from a country where leases of even one-tenth the duration were rare. But as the population of the island increased, the desire of the settlers to be possessed of the fee-

* The Colony continued in the receipt of assistance from the Imperial Parliament until the year 1851, when, on the introduction of Responsible Government, the maintenance of the Civil List (with the exception of the Lieut.-Governor's salary, which was paid from home until 1869) was undertaken by the local Legislature.

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simple of their farms, thwarted as was this desire by the fact above stated that the whole of the land was rigidly locked up in the hands of a few absentee proprietors, led to an agitation which can only now be said to be finally subsiding.

6. At first the landlords were all-powerful. Gradually, however, the lessees, being resident on the land, electing and constituting in great part the representative Legislature, and recognizing their political power, became eager to make themselves, if possible, the actual proprietors of the soil.

7. With this object in view Acts were from time to time passed by the local Legislature which, had they been assented to by the Crown, would have had the effect of transferring property in land from the owner to the tenant. These were, "An Act for Establishing a Court "of Escheat," by which it was proposed that the lands of those proprietors who had failed to comply with the conditions of their grants might be escheated and re-granted in small tracts to actual settlers; "An Act for Settling Doubts as to Titles;" "The Tenants' Com- "pensation Act;" "An Act for imposing a Tax on the Rent-Roll "of Proprietors;" none of which, however, were confirmed by the Crown.

8. Matters went on in this way for many years, and attempts disallowed in one form were as often insinuated in another, the royal prerogative being on each occasion exercised for the protection of legal rights, and the maintenance of the laws of property.

9. The inutility of such attempts became at length apparent, and of late years the policy of the local Government has been to devote as much money as could be spared to buying out the proprietors by private contract, with a view to the properties purchased in block being subdivided and resold to the tenants for gradual payments on as easy terms as the country could possibly afford, and certainly on far easier terms than would have been exacted by the proprietors.

10. This wise policy has done much to allay excitement and discontent on the land question. It is hoped that the few remaining proprietors will sooner or later be induced to sell, and those of the tenants who have not yet been able to acquire their freeholds may at all events look forward to the accomplishment of what is still the great aim and desire of almost every tenant-farmer in Prince Edward Island.

11. I subjoin a return showing the number and area of the estates which have been purchased by the Colony, the price paid per acre, the quantity of land resold to the occupiers, and the quantity of disposable land still remaining in the hands of the local Government.

12. From the following return it will be seen that since 1854 we have bought up from the proprietors, at a total cost of 98,435*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, 445,131 acres of land, of which 345,474 have been resold to the occupiers, and 99,657 are still available for intending purchasers.

13. The unsold lands are forest lands of medium quality (the best lands having of course been taken up by the tenants in the first instance) the selling price of which varies from four shillings to six shillings and eightpence per acre. For the same lands the proprietors would probably have charged from five to fifteen shillings per acre.

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SCHEDULE of TOWNSHIPS and ESTATES purchased by the COLONIAL GOVERNMENT from the PROPRIETORS in BLOCK, with a view to their being RESOLD to the TENANTS.

Date of Purchase.	Name of Proprietor.	Total area.	Price per acre, sterling.	Total purchase money in sterling.	Number of acres resold.	No. of acres unsold remaining in the hands of Government.
			s. *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*		
Dec. 28, 1854	Chas. Worrell, Esq.	70,539	3 11	13,766 13 4	52,405	18,134
June 2, 1856	Sir M. Walsh - -	12,720	2 11¾	1,900 0 0	11,340	1,380
Sept. 17, 1860	Earl of Selkirk - -	62,059	2 1½	6,612 0 6	62,059	
Nov. 24, 1860	Ass'ns. of a bankrupt	13,000	3 0¾	2,000 0 0	11,629	1,371
Oct. 14, 1863 June 1, 1864 May 16, 1865 April 7, 1866	Sir G. Montgomery and brothers -	22,931	4 3¾	4,965 10 0	21,739	1,192
July 1, 1866	Sir S. Cunard - -	212,931	4 11¾	53,000 0 0	157,917	55,014
Nov. 15, 1867	Rev. G. Townsend -	3,715	3 11¼	733 6 8	1,288	2,427
July 13, 1868	J. C. Pope, Esq. - -	7,413	7 4¼	2,726 0 0	6,822	591
Feb. 4, 1869 Mar. 16, 1869	T. H. Haviland, Esq.	24,167	5 1	6,146 13 4	9,143	15,024
Mar. 25, 1869	Dan. Hodgson, Esq.	3,728	5 11¾	1,615 9 4	3,474	254
Mar. 31, 1870	E. Palmer, Esq. -	11,928	8 2	4,970 0 0	7,658	4,270
		445,131		98,435 13 2	345,474	99,657

14, By an Act of the Colonial Legislature, passed in 1868 (31 Vict. cap. 4), facilities are offered to individuals who may desire to settle on the public wilderness lands. Amongst other privileges they are allowed eighteen years to pay for their farms—the first eight years free, the purchase-money then to bear interest at five per cent., and to be payable in ten annual instalments.

15. It is indisputable that new settlers would be a source of increased wealth to the country, but on the other hand it is argued, I believe, that the area of unoccupied land is no larger than will hereafter be required to meet the wants of the natural increase of the existing population, and no steps have been taken by the local Government, or organized system established in connection with an agency at home, for the encouragement of immigration. I may observe that there is a tax on immigrants arriving in the Colony of 8*s.* 8*d.* per head, which was imposed before the enactment of the Imperial Passengers Act, 18 & 19 Vict. cap. 119, as amended by 26 & 27 Vict. c. 57, and still remains unrepealed.

PART V.

POPULATION, EDUCATION, CRIME, &c.

1. I give an abstract, compiled from the last two Censuses, which shows that the population amounts now to 94,021 against 80,857 in 1861, being an increase of 13,164 in ten years.

2. The decrease under the head of "Natives of other countries" as noted in the above Table, accords with the remarks which I have already submitted on the subject of immigration.

3. The density of population for the whole island is rather more than 43 persons to the square mile, or if the unsettled lands be excluded, 135 persons to the square mile.

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	1861.	1871.	Increase.	Decrease.
Number of inhabitants:—				
Total population	80,857	94,021	13,164	—
Males	40,916	47,121	6,205	—
Females	39,941	46,900	6,959	—
Natives of the island	62,846	80,271	17,415	—
Natives of other countries	18,011	13,750	—	4,261
Religious Denominations*:—				
Church of England	6,785	7,220	435	—
Presbyterians	15,591	18,603	3,021	—
Church of Scotland	10,271	10,976	705	—
Roman Catholics	35,852	40,442	4,913	—
Methodists	5,809	8,361	2,552	—
Baptists	3,451	4,371	920	—
Bible Christians	2,561	2,709	148	—
Universalists	41	77	36	—
Other Denominations	496	1,262	443	—
Miscellaneous particulars:—				
Births	2,320	2,344	24	—
Deaths	938	941	3	—
Marriages	585	550	—	35
Deaf and dumb	68	70	2	—
Blind	43	64	21	—
Insane	148	188	40	—

* There are now 187 churches in the Colony, against 159 in 1861, but the proportion belonging to each denomination I have not yet been able to ascertain.

4. The population is composed of a mixed race, about six-sevenths of the whole being natives of the island, and one-seventh of the United Kingdom, the neighbouring British Provinces, and other countries. The former (80,271) are chiefly descended from the French Acadians, who remained after the cession of the Colony in 1763; of settlers from the Highlands of Scotland, who were introduced by the proprietors of townships subsequently to 1770; and of American Loyalists, to whom lands were granted at the close of the revolutionary war. The latter (13,750) may be divided as follows:—

Natives of England	1,957
„ Scotland	4,128
„ Ireland	3,712
„ British Provinces	3,246
„ Other Countries	707

5. This reference to the population would not be complete without some mention of the Micmac Indians, of whom a few are still remaining—a remnant of a once numerous and powerful tribe. The Indians number now about 300. They are chiefly located on Lennox Island, a small island of about 1,400 acres, which has recently been purchased for their sole use and benefit by the Aborigines Protection Society of London, at a cost of 400*l.*, and which is now about to be surveyed and parcelled out into suitable family lots. The Indians appear to have had a liking for, and to have squatted on, Lennox Island for many years, for I find it mentioned by the Land Commissioners in their Report of 1862 that "as it appears by evi- "dence that the Indians have been in uninterrupted occupancy of "this property for more than half a century, and have built a chapel "and several houses upon the same, the undersigned are of opinion

"that their title should be confirmed, and that this very small portion "of the wide territory their forefathers formerly owned should be "left in the undisturbed possession of this last remnant of the "race."

6. The purchase of this island by the Aborigines Protection Society, in order that the Indians might be secured in their tenure, was therefore an act of great benevolence. I am happy to think, having recently visited the island, that the condition of these poor people is improving, and that the allotment of a piece of land to each family will put an end to their boundary difficulties, a fruitful source of dispute, and tend to the further elevation of their general character and position. The Indian Commissioner, Mr. Stewart, whose indefatigable exertions on behalf of the Indians entitle him to the gratitude of the community, reports that "the question as to the capacity "and willingness of the resident Indians to take to the cultivation of "the soil, as an auxiliary to their manufacturing pursuits, equally "with that of their children to be educated, is now no longer ques-"tionable. The problem in both these particulars has been satis-"factorily solved on Lennox Island, where three or four families "have made considerable progress in the cultivation of the land, "only answerable of course, to the means at their disposal for this "purpose; and where a Government school is now in successful "operation."

7. The Legislature pays the salary of the schoolmaster at Lennox Island, and allows about 60*l.* a year for the relief of pauper Indians, which sum is administered by the Indian Commissioner, and usually devoted to the purchase of blankets and a few medical comforts.

Education.

8. I submit an abstract or summary in a tabular form of the educational statistics of Prince Edward Island for 1870, derived from the reports of the school inspectors, and the public accounts of the Colony:

EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS, 1870.

No. of Schools.	No. of enrolled Scholars.	Average daily attendance.	Teachers' Salaries.			Annual expenditure on Education.	Annual cost of each pupil on enrolment.	Annual cost of each pupil in attendance.	Total population of the Colony.	Total No. of children between five and sixteen.
			Maximum.	Minimum.	Average.					
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
372	15,000	9,000	66 13 4	23 6 8	40 0 0	13,333 6 8	0 17 6	1 9 7	94,021	25,952

9. The following extracts from a report recently furnished to me by Mr. John McNeill, the careful and efficient secretary to the Board of Education, afford a general view of the state of education in the colony:—

The total population by the recent Census is 94,021, of whom 25,952 are between the ages of five and sixteen. A sum of 13,000*l.* sterling of the public funds, or about one-fifth of the yearly revenue, is annually expended on education, maintaining one college or academy, 15 grammar schools, and 357 common or district schools, imparting instruction to a total of 15,000 children on the roll, of whom 9,000,

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or 61·39 per cent. of the whole, are found in daily average attendance. Of these schools 103 are taught by female teachers. With the sole exception of the College (Prince of Wales), the schools are free to all children, excepting a payment of a small fee to defray the cost of fuel. The parents build and maintain the schoolhouses and provide the requisite school-books and stationery.

The salaries vary according to sex and qualifications, from a minimum of 23*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* sterling to the maximum of 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* sterling per annum, the average yearly salary being 40*l.* sterling.

Of grammar schools there are fifteen in operation in the rural districts, the teachers of which must be competent to pass an examination before a Board of Examiners in the Greek, Latin, and French languages, and in mathematics.

Of the common schools there are two classes, in the lower of which the teachers must be found qualified to teach reading, arithmetic, English grammar, and geography; in the higher class, in addition to these branches, theoretical and practical mathematics, with the use of the globes, is prescribed.

A normal school is established for the training of teachers, with a staff of three instructors, the principal of which is paid 133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* sterling a year.

The college or academy above referred to has a principal and one professor, whose salaries are in part defrayed by the students' fees. This institution costs the country 440*l.* sterling a year, paid from the Colonial treasury.

The present school system came into operation in the year 1853, since which time the schools have more than doubled, and the school attendance has been trebled.

A board of education of eleven members appointed by Government, whose salaries or fees do not exceed 150*l.* sterling a year in the aggregate, administers in monthly sessions the public school system of Prince Edward Island.

10. Admitting that since the introduction of the present school system in 1853 "the schools have more than doubled and the school "attendance has been trebled," I still think that the foregoing statistics are not altogether satisfactory. The return which precedes Mr. McNeill's report shows that the average daily attendance is small as compared with the juvenile population, while the cost to the country of each pupil in attendance is certainly in excess of what it ought to be; and I am disposed to concur with my predecessor that "the results from the voluntary system of free education, "supported as it chiefly is by general taxation, can hardly be deemed "commensurate with the large expenditure of public funds which it "absorbs."

Libraries, Newspapers, and Institutions.

11. The only libraries that I know of are the Legislative Library (a large and well-stocked one, to which the members of the Legislature, the bar, and the public officials generally, have access), one circulating library in Charlottetown, and one in Summerside.

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12. Six weekly newspapers are published in Charlottetown, two in Summerside, and one in Georgetown. They usually devote a column or so to the latest telegraphic news, the remainder of their space being mostly given up to advertisements and the energetic discussion of local politics.

13. The principal institutions and societies, apart from those supported by Government, are:—

Benevolent Irish Society.
Cascumpec Ladies' Benevolent Society.
Catholic Young Men's Literary Association.
Charlottetown Debating Club.
Church of England Ladies' Industrial Clothing Society.
Colonial Church and School Society.
Diocesan Church Society.
Ladies' Benevolent Society in connection with the Church of Scotland.
Micmac (Indian) Society of Prince Edward Island.
Orwell Young Men's Institute.
Prince County Agricultural Society.
Prince Edward Island Auxiliary Bible Society.
Prince Edward Island Auxiliary Religious Tract Society.
Princetown Literary and Scientific Society.
Roman Catholic Convent School.
St. Dunstan's (Roman Catholic) College.
St. Peter's Bay Agricultural Society.
Wesleyan Dorcas Society.
Wesleyan Methodist Academy.
Young Men's Christian Association and Literary Institute.

14. The above enumeration, which does not include various Masonic and Temperance conventions, will at all events suffice to show that Prince Edward Island is not wanting in several of those institutions and societies which serve to indicate the social and educational status of the community.

Gaols and Prisoners.

15. I regret that it is not in my power to report any improvement under this heading, the gaols of Prince Edward Island being in much the same state as they were when the information respecting them was furnished which will be found summarized at pages 29 and 59 of the Digest on Colonial Prisons presented to Parliament in 1867, from which, to save reference, I extract the following remarks:—

Prince Edward Island has three county gaols, which are managed under local statute 12 Vict., cap. 12, by justices selected by the Lieut.-Governor from each county to be commissioners for giving effect to the provisions of the Act. Gaolers are appointed by the sheriffs; medical officers by the Lieut.-Governor.

The Queen's county gaol serves to some extent as a central prison,

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and to it may be transferred from the others prisoners sentenced to hard labour, for which in them there is no provision. In fact it does not appear that such a transference is generally made, and each of the three prisons is used for all classes of criminals, and occasionally for lunatics. The actual numbers are generally small, and below the capacity of the prisons.

The action of the Commissioners under the Act has not had the effect of introducing uniformity of system, diet, or treatment in these prisons, nor that of making them sanitarily satisfactory. In this latter respect all three are very deficient, while the Queen's county gaol provides no labour but that of stone breaking, and the others none. Separation and reformation are not attempted.

16. In January last I addressed a communication to my Government on the subject of the Queen's county gaol, in which (after drawing their attention to the want of accommodation for prisoners, the defective state of the sewerage, and the absence of anything like hard labour) I remarked as follows :—

"The gaol is evidently too small, its staff too limited, for the present requirements of the colony. The experience of the mother country, and the labours of the eminent men who have made that experience their study, prove that for prison discipline to be successful you must have complete separation (which of course means silence as well), classification, hard fare, and hard labour. The deterrent property of hard labour should not be sacrificed to the remunerative—that is to say, it is more important to punish the prisoner than to make him profitable—and the reformation of juvenile offenders should be strenuously and systematically attempted. For all this you require of course space and a proper staff of officers. But money so spent is well spent, and though the results may not be immediately apparent, they will be none the less certainly felt and appreciated.

"The establishment is defective in almost every sanitary, disciplinary, and penal requirement, and falls far short, I feel bound to add, of what in my judgment the central prison of a prosperous colony with a population of nearly 100,000 and a revenue of 60,000*l*. a year ought to be."

17. I am happy to report that my advisers are fully alive to the urgent necessity of removing the numerous defects now existing in the prisons, and that they will take an early opportunity of applying to the Legislature for the necessary funds for the purpose. Certainly the steady increase of crime exhibited by the following Table, far exceeding as it does the proportionate increase of population, and which can only be attributed, so far as I am aware, to the unsatisfactory condition and management of the local gaols, shows that no time should be lost in dealing with a question of such paramount importance to the community.

COMPARATIVE TABLE of the NUMBER of OFFENCES, APPREHENSIONS, CONVICTIONS, and ACQUITTALS, for the last four Years.

	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
The number of offences reported to the police	401	449	510	556
The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates	294	302	374	490
The number of summary convictions:—				
1. For offences against person	302	348	450	510
2. For prædial larceny	—	—	—	—
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny	100	150	200	250
4. For other offences	60	80	100	120
The number of the convictions in the superior courts:—				
1. For offences against person	2	6	4	22
2. For larceny	4	8	3	4
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny	—	—	—	—
4. For other offences	1	2	1	8
The number of persons acquitted:—				
1. In the inferior courts, Charlottetown	7	9	10	12
2. In the superior courts	1	3	7	2

Pauperism.

18. The expenditure on behalf of the poor does not much exceed 1,500*l.* a year. There is a small almshouse near Charlottetown, which accommodates a limited number of paupers, the remainder of the grant being expended in outdoor relief.

Lunatic Asylum.

19. This, the only charitable institution of any importance supported by the local Government, is not in keeping with the present requirements of the Colony. The cells on the ground floor are, as I reported some months ago, damp, badly ventilated, and badly lighted; and the inmates in the airing room much too crowded, the room containing usually about 17 persons, and affording an area of only 3,600 cubic feet. The quantity of land, too, attached to the building is insufficient to afford healthy occupation to the patients. It has therefore been decided to purchase a property near Charlottetown, known as Falconwood, the house on which is capable of being converted into a suitable asylum, and where the inmates will find abundant healthy and profitable occupation in assisting in the cultivation of the farm. With this intention the Legislature recently placed the sum of 5,000*l.* at the disposal of my Government—3,000*l.* for the purchase of the property, and 2,000*l.* for enlarging and improving the buildings on the farm, in order to prepare them for the reception of the lunatics.

20. The asylum is under the control of ten trustees appointed by the Lieut.-Governor in Council (the Board including by law the Chief Justice, the President of the Legislative Council, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, three members of the Executive Council, and two members of the House of Assembly, who have power "to "make and ordain rules and regulations for the management of the "said institution, and to appoint the several officers, and fix and "determine the amount of salaries to be paid to such officers, and

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"the appropriation and expenditure of all moneys voted by the "Legislature for the support of the said institution."

21. The establishment, which can only accommodate at present 40 lunatics, costs the country altogether 1,000*l.* a year, being at the rate of 25*l.* per head for each inmate.

22. I observe from the census that there are altogether 188 lunatics in the Colony; their proportion to the population is therefore one in 500.

PART VI.

MANUFACTURES, FISHERIES, AND COAL.

1. The following return of manufactures will, I think, be considered satisfactory:—

	1860.	1870.	Increase.	Decrease.
Yards of fulled cloth manufactured	122,940	150,975	28,035	—
„ cloth not fulled „	303,676	428,313	124,637	—
Lbs. leather „	143,803	197,031	53,228	—
„ tobacco * „	—	69,399	—	—
Barrels lime „	22,821	56,787	33,966	—
No. of fish barrels * „	—	42,278	—	—
„ bricks „	1,331,000	1,556,245	225,245	—
„ carriages and sleighs „	1,151	1,207	56	—
Breweries and distilleries	20	11	—	9
Tanneries	55	58	3	—
Grist mills	141	145	4	—
Carding mills	46	47	1	—
Saw mills	176	181	5	—
Fulling and dressing mills	9	13	4	—
Cloth factories *	—	4	—	—
Shingle and lath mills *	—	130	—	—
Lime kilns	48	116	68	—
Brick kilns	9	20	11	—
Steam engines for mechanical and other purposes *	—	12	—	—

* Not previously enumerated.

Fisheries.

2. Prince Edward Island is, without doubt, the best fishing station within the Gulf of St. Lawrence, but the habits and feelings of the inhabitants are so decidedly agricultural that the fisheries have not received from our own people the attention which they deserve, and are now mainly carried on with United States' capital.

3. The following return, extracted from the census for 1870, shows that, so far as the island population are concerned, the fishing business has not on the whole improved since 1860:—

	1860.	1870.
Fishing establishments	89	176
Barrels of mackerel cured	7,163	16,047
„ herrings or alewives	22,416	16,831
Quintals of cod or hake	39,776	15,649
Gallons of fish oil	17,609	11,662
Boats owned for fishing	1,239	1,183
Men engaged in fishing	2,318	1,646
Lbs. of hake sounds cured	No return	12,522
„ preserved and other fish	„	6,711

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4. On the political aspect of the fishery question I, for obvious reasons, will not now touch, except in so far as I would express an earnest hope that the arrangements consequent on the Treaty of Washington, and now pending, may result in the final settlement of a question which has in various forms been the subject of controversy with the United States for the better part of a century, and ultimately lead to the establishment, on a secure and lasting basis, of commercial relations beneficial alike to the people of these provinces and the United States.

Coal.

5. To the report of Dr. Dawson on the geological structure and mineral resources of the colony (the result of explorations conducted last autumn in search of coal) I have already referred. The practical conclusions arrived at with respect to the coal formations of Prince Edward Island are therein given in the following words:—

RELATIONS TO THE COAL FIELDS OF NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

The facts stated under the previous general heading afford the data for an answer to this question as complete, perhaps, as can be obtained without actual mining operations.

The carboniferous rocks of Nova Scotia consist of the following members in descending order:—

The Upper Coal Formation, consisting of red and gray sandstones with thin beds of coal, not as yet worked, 1,500 to 3,000 feet.

The Middle Coal Formation, consisting of sandstones, shales, &c., usually of gray colours, and containing the large productive beds of coal, estimated at about 4,000 feet.

The Millstone Grit Series, consisting of sandstones and conglomerates without productive coal, 5,000 to 6,000 feet.

The Lower Carboniferous Marine Series, containing limestones and gypsum, with sandstones, shales, and marls. Thickness very variable.

The Lower Carboniferous Coal measures, consisting of sandstones, shales, and conglomerates without productive coals, but with highly bituminous shales.

In Nova Scotia these beds are tilted up, often at considerable angles, and the upper portions of them have been removed by denudation in such a manner that the edges of the coal beds appear at the surface, and can be opened up without penetrating the overlying beds. In Prince Edward Island the case is different, the beds being very nearly horizontal; so that only the upper members can be seen, and these are in many places covered with the Triassic series.

The places explored by us in which the coal-measures are nearest the surface are, Governor's Island and Gallas Point, and the coast extending from West Cape to North Cape. To these may perhaps be added the coast near Wood Islands, where it is probable that the carboniferous rocks may be covered with only a very limited thickness of trias.

If boring were undertaken at either of the above places, it might be hoped that the upper coals would be reached at a depth of not less than 500 or more than 2,000 feet. Should these prove too thin to

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be worked, there would be little hope of reaching the lower coals at a less depth than 3,000 or 5,000 feet, which would, of course, be a depth altogether too great for profitable working at present.

The above estimate proceeds on the supposition that the coal-measures underlying Prince Edward Island are similar to those of Nova Scotia. It is to be observed, however, that in New Brunswick there is reason to believe that the aggregate thickness of the carboniferous rocks is much less, but unfortunately the beds of coal partake in this diminution of thickness. Should the coal rocks under Prince Edward Island, therefore, prove similar to those of New Brunswick, they would be found at a less depth, but on the other hand might be of less value.

As the beds exposed at Miminigash are in the line of the Buctouche anticlinal, on the coast of New Brunswick, and those of Gallas Point and Governor's Island are in the line of the Cape Tormentine anticlinal in the same province, and, as the beds have much the aspect of the upper carboniferous in New Brunswick, it might be inferred that the coals under these places may resemble those of New Brunswick. In that province no beds of coal of greater thickness than 2 feet are known. At Wood Islands the beds reached might be supposed to resemble more those of the northern part of Pictou district, in which no coals thicker than 3 feet are yet known in the upper coal-formation; and the great beds of the middle coal-formation would probably at this place be too deep to be profitably worked.

On the other hand, it is possible, though there is no evidence of this, that the coal of the upper coal-formation under Prince Edward Island might be more abundant than in the districts mentioned, and it it is to be observed that those districts cannot be considered so fully explored as to render important new discoveries improbable. From these statements the general practical conclusion would be,—

1. That carboniferous rocks, similar to those of Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, probably underlie the whole of Prince Edward Island.

2. That in certain places indicated above, the upper member of the Carboniferous Series appears at the surface in a nearly horizontal and undisturbed condition.

3. That boring operations prosecuted at these places would, undoubtedly, reach the upper and possibly the middle coal-measures, and the beds of coal which they may contain.

4. That the productive value of such coals must be uncertain previous to such actual trial.

5. That the depth of the seams would probably be too great for profitable mining in the present state of the coal trade.

The greatest depth at which coal is at present mined in Nova Scotia is about 900 feet, and the greatest depth in England is 2,000 feet. No mines in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick have as yet penetrated the upper coal-measures in search of coal, nor have such careful and minute surveys of these beds been undertaken as would supersede the necessity of boring operations in Prince Edward Island, should it be desired to test the point practically. Should any operations of this kind be undertaken and prosecuted to completion on the main land, the information there obtained could readily be applied to Prince Edward Island. On the other hand, the successful penetration of the

newer coal-formation in Prince Edward Island, in search of coal, would at once develop the corresponding regions of the mainland now untried. In any case, deep boring in the newer coal-formation, either in northern New Brunswick or in Prince Edward Island, could scarcely fail to develop facts of scientific interest.

In event of such boring being undertaken to a moderate depth, the methods now in use in Nova Scotia and in the oil districts of Canada and Pennsylvania would be sufficient; but if it were intended to penetrate to great depths, some of the improved methods which have been applied to deep boring in Europe would be preferable.

On the whole, it may be concluded that the probabilities are decidedly against the discovery of a large bed of coal at such a depth as to enable it to be immediately available.

PART VII.

GOVERNMENT.

Form of Government.

1. Responsible Government was conceded to Prince Edward Island in 1851, since which time the Executive has been distinctly recognized as responsible to the Legislature.

2. The Legislature consists of the Lieutenant-Governor, appointed by the Crown, who is also Commander-in-Chief of the Militia, Chancellor, Vice-Admiral, and Ordinary; a Legislative Council of thirteen members, and a House of Assembly of thirty members; both of which bodies are elected by the people.

3. An Executive Council of nine members, selected from the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, advises and assists the Lieutenant-Governor in administering the affairs of the Colony.

4. Under the system of Government which formerly existed, it was not considered indispensable that the Executive Council should always be so constituted as to enjoy the confidence and support of a majority of the representatives of the people, and hence arose the antagonism which more than once prevailed between the different branches of the Legislature. The establishment of Responsible Government (a system under which the policy of the Colonial Government, in all questions in which Imperial interests are not directly involved, is conducted in accordance with the well understood wishes of the people as expressed through their representatives in Parliament) has of course done much to remedy this evil, and by obliging the Lieutenant-Governor to select his advisers from among persons possessing the confidence of the people, or at all events of a majority of their representatives, to maintain that executive and legislative harmony so essential to the good government of the Colony.

5. The sittings of the Executive Council are held under the presidency of the Lieutenant-Governor in person, but the Councillors, as a Committee of Council, deliberate previously upon matters referred for their consideration, and prepare reports and memoranda for the Lieutenant-Governor on all important subjects.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor is authorized to appoint one member of the Executive Council to preside there in his absence, the seniority

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of the remaining members being regulated by the date of their respective appointments.

7. It is the province of the Council to occupy itself with the general business of the Colony, applications and demands of every description being placed under its consideration. In accordance with the advice of his councillors the Lieutenant-Governor nominates to employments, removes public functionaries, receives and accepts resignations; in conjunction with them he directs all public affairs, and sees that the laws are duly carried out.

8. The right to nominate to employments resides constitutionally in the Lieutenant-Governor, who can exercise it independently if he thinks proper; but the retirement of his advisers, who are held responsible by Parliament, would be the probable consequence of non-consultation with the Council.

9. Ministers once installed hold office until they find, on the one hand, that they are unable to secure in the Legislature the requisite support of the policy to which they are pledged; or, on the other hand, that the Lieutenant-Governor, exercising the discretion which the Royal Commission and instructions confer upon him, deems it his duty to act on important questions in opposition to their policy and advice. Disagreements within itself occasionally lead to the disruption and resignation of the ministry, but in nine cases out of ten the changes that occur are directly attributable to a want of Parliamentary support.

Political Franchise.

10. The Island is divided into three counties, each of which elects four councillors (the city of Charlottetown returning one in addition) and ten representatives.

11. There is no qualification for members of the Legislative Council. For its electors, the qualifications are full age, and property to the value of 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

12. The qualification for a member of the Assembly is the possession of freehold or leasehold estate, of the value of 33*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* over and above all incumbrances. As regards electors for the House of Assembly, every male person of full age, being a British subject, and in possession of fee-simple, leasehold, or of occupation land of the yearly value of 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* (who shall have owned or possessed, or have been in the occupation of said premises for 12 months, or have resided in the town, royalty, or district 12 months previous to the issue of the writ of election), or who, being liable to perform statute labour on the public roads, shall have actually performed the same, or paid a sum of money in lieu thereof, or whose calling relieves him from statute labour, is an elector for the town and royalty, or the district, in which he resides. Joint occupants, tenants, or co-partners in trade have but one vote, except the yearly individual interest or joint occupancy amounts to 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

13. A system of voting papers has been in operation since 1866, the following being the section of the Act (29 Vict., cap. 10) by which the system was established.

Every male person of the age of 21 years and upwards, being a British subject, and qualified to vote upon any property qualification

required by any Acts of the General Assembly of this Island, either for members to serve in the Legislative Council or House of Assembly, shall be entitled to vote for the election of a member or members for the town and royalty, or district respectively, wherein such property qualification may be situated, by polling all his votes at the polling division in any other town or district wherein such person may be entitled to vote for the election of a member, although such polling division be not situated in the town or royalty, or electoral district, or county in which such first-mentioned qualification lies.

14. 14,148 electors recorded their votes at the last general election.

Legislation.

15. The principal Acts passed in 1870 (in addition to the ordinary Revenue and Appropriation Acts) were:—

An Act to declare the law and practice in cases of escheat.
An Act relating to law costs and other proceedings.
An Act for the better government of certain rising towns and villages in this Island.
An Act to amend the Act relating to patents for useful inventions.
An Act to repeal certain sections of an Act to regulate the specie currency of Prince Edward Island.
An Act to explain and amend certai Acts relating to the sale by licence of spirituous liquors.
An Act to amend the law regulating the hearing of appeal cases, and to repeal part of a certain Act therein mentioned.
An Act to alter the present system of paying school teachers' salaries.
An Act relating to the mode of summoning special jurors, and to entering up judgments in the Supreme Court.
An Act for taking the census of Prince Edward Island.
An Act to amend an Act intituled "An Act to provide for the "care and maintenance of idiots, lunatics, and persons of un- "sound mind."

Civil and Judicial Establishments.

16. The changes that take place in the various departments of government are so frequent, and depend so entirely on political considerations, that I hardly consider it necessary to offer any detailed remarks with reference to the *personnel* of the civil establishment. Under Responsible Government the distribution of patronage forms of necessity an important element of political and party strength, but I must confess that the system, as carried out in Prince Edward Island, is by no means conducive to the efficiency of the public service. In Canada, as at home, while the political heads of the principal departments necessarily come and go with their party, an efficient staff of experienced subordinates, who take no part in political life, and are far removed from its vicissitudes, is permanently maintained by the State; and there, as a rule, the heads of minor departments, and petty officials generally, are safe from political interference. Not so here, I regret to say. All office holders, from the highest to the lowest, the judges alone excepted, understand that their tenure is

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essentially a political one, and that on a change of Government they are liable to be removed, in order to make way for the supporters of the incoming administration. There are one or two departments, it is true, in which the chief clerks, being officers of technical experience and ability, have, for the last few years, been retained in office by successive Administrations, but these are exceptional cases, and, generally speaking, the first act of a new ministry is to give practical and forcible effect to that politically mischievous adage—"To the "victors belong the spoils." It is evident that no service can be thoroughly efficient in which merit is made subordinate to the exigencies of party government, and which does not offer to its employés a fair prospect of advancement and permanent employment.

17. The chief colonial officers are the Colonial Secretary, the Comptroller of Customs, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, who receive salaries of 200*l.* a year each, and the Postmaster-General, whose salary is 233*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* The total cost of the civil establishment is 6,081*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*

18. The principal officers of the judicial establishment are—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The Chief Justice, whose salary is - -	400	0	0
The Master of the Rolls and Asst. Judge of Supreme Court - - - -	333	6	8
The Vice-Chancellor and Asst. Judge of Supreme Court - - - -	333	6	8
The Attorney-General - - - -	233	6	8
The Solicitor-General - - -	133	6	8

and the Judge of the Court of Probate, who is paid by fees. The total cost of the judicial establishment is 1,593*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; of the civil and judicial combined, 7,674*l.* 18*s.*

Administration of Justice.

19. The courts consist of—

(1.) *Court of Chancery.*—The judicial powers of the Court of Chancery, of which the Lieutenant-Governor is ex-officio Chancellor, are now exercised by a Master of the Rolls and a Vice-Chancellor.

(2.) *Court of Divorce.*—Of the Court of Divorce, which was established by statute in 1836, the Lieutenant-Governor and the Members of the Executive Council are the judges; but the Lieutenant-Governor is authorized by law to depute the Chief Justice to preside there in his absence.

(3.) *Supreme Court.*—This, the principal court of law in the Colony, is presided over by a Chief Justice and two assistant judges. The powers, practice, and jurisdiction of the Supreme Court resemble, and are nearly co-extensive with, those of the Courts of Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer at Westminster. The Common Law is the foundation of the jurisprudence of the Colony, but the amendments introduced from time to time in England, have, as a rule, been adopted by the local Legislature without delay. In civil suits nine jurors out of twelve can give a verdict, but in all criminal prosecutions there must be a unanimous verdict of twelve jurors to convict or acquit. The Supreme Court is the Court of

Appeal from all courts of an inferior jurisdiction, and from the decisions of Justices of the Peace in all cases of summary convictions.

(4.) *Court of Probate.*—The Court of Probate with one judge has jurisdiction all over the Colony in cases of wills and intestacies.

(5.) *Court of Bankruptcy.*—A Court of Bankruptcy was created by Statute in 1868, the Commissioner of which has jurisdiction in all cases where the debtor applying for relief has contracted debts to the extent of 200*l.* sterling.

(6.) *Small Debt Courts.*—Courts for the recovery of small debts have been established in various sections of the Colony. Each Court is presided over by three Commissioners, and has jurisdiction in actions of debt and trover to the extent of 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* sterling.

(7.) *Police Court.*—Charlottetown was incorporated as a city in the year 1855, and has a Police Court and a Small Debt Court, of which the Mayor and Common Councillors are the judges. These Courts have only jurisdiction where crimes have been committed and debts contracted within the boundaries of the city.

20. Justices of the Peace throughout the Island have power to adjudicate in minor cases of trespass to the person and property.

PART VIII.

COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE.

Imports and Exports.

1. The commerce of Prince Edward Island consists in the exchange of its agricultural productions, island-built ships, and fish, for British and American manufactures, and other articles of necessary consumption.

2. I subjoin (1) a Table showing the value of the imports and exports from and to the countries with which the mercantile intercourse of the Colony was carried on during 1870, and (2) a return which will serve to exhibit the progressive commercial improvement that has taken place here since 1860.

1.—VALUE of the IMPORTS and EXPORTS of PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, from and to each Country, in the Year 1870.

Countries.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.
	£	£
United Kingdom	168,588	120,781
British Colonies, viz.:—		
Canada	48,175	5,092
Nova Scotia	71,517	85,303
New Brunswick	43,672	38,010
Newfoundland	2,746	15,612
Bermuda and West Indies	5,314	3,648
Foreign Countries, viz.:—		
United States	45,588	81,353
Cuba	—	836
St. Pierre	128	2,202
Total value in sterling of Vessels Exported from Prince Edward Island, during the year 1870 (tonnage 12,093), not including any wrecked or lost at sea	—	78,000
Total	385,732	430,840

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

2.—TOTAL VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS from 1860 to 1870 inclusive.

Years.	Imports.	Exports.	Years.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£		£	£
1860	230,054	223,580	1866	432,487	378,567
1861	209,935	163,114	1867	294,444	372,316
1862	211,240	150,550	1868	363,037	362,913
1863	293,431	209,472	1869	363,027	365,191
1864	337,927	202,668	1870	385,732	430,840
1865	381,012	302,565			

3. It will be observed that, as compared with 1869, the imports of 1870 show an increase of 22,705*l.*, the exports of 65,649*l.*; that the imports have risen from 230,054*l.* in 1860 to 385,732*l.* in 1870; and that the exports have nearly doubled in value within the last ten years. In view of this latter increase, the following detailed statement of the exports for 1860 and 1870, respectively, will be of interest:

STATEMENT of EXPORTS and their VALUE for the Years 1860 and 1870.

Articles Exported.	Quantity.		Value.					
	1860.	1870.	1860.			1870.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Oats, bushels	1,290,062	1,893,433	101,728	8	3	149,694	9	7
Barley „	103,756	53,719	13,374	13	2	6,888	12	8
Potatoes „	519,198	502,484	24,801	7	3	23,503	19	7
Turnips „	52,609	30,011	1,910	10	4	1,006	19	7
Pork, barrels	1,902	12,880	5,809	7	0	50,626	6	0
Ham and bacon, lbs.	43,609	89,192	913	19	1	2,301	6	2
Lard, lbs	4,816	86,746	161	13	4	2,476	18	10
Horses	130	539	1,293	6	8	9,386	17	0
Cattle	476	262	2,419	6	8	1,763	10	8
Sheep	610	5,275	391	8	4	2,685	19	0
Butter	32,077	155,865	1,301	2	0	6,151	14	0
Eggs	1,786	9,824	4,400	8	3	19,563	16	0
Codfish, quintals	14,645	9,117	7,039	0	0	4,955	19	0
Herrings, barrels	10,232	5,082	6,766	15	4	3,617	10	0
Mackerel, „	3,882	14,095	8,244	12	6	35,506	8	4
Preserved fish, packages	—	18,621	—			7,003	19	0
Shipping, tonnage	6,266	12,093	23,146	10	6	78,000	0	0
Other produce	—	—	5,619	1	2	13,979	18	6
Total value of Exports the produce of the Colony			218,321	9	10	419,114	3	11
„ „ not the „ „			5,259	4	0	11,726	13	11
Total value of all Exports			223,580	13	10	430,840	17	10

Shipping.

4. The shipping returns may be considered satisfactory, the arrivals and departures having increased as follows since 1869:—

INWARDS.

	1869.	1870.	Increase.	Decrease.
Number of Vessels	1,619	1,773	154	—
Crews	10,357	10,904	547	—
Tonnage	230,220	265,805	33,585	—

OUTWARDS.

	1869.	1870.	Increase.	Decrease.
Number of Vessels	1,698	1,856	158	—
Crews	14,250	12,203	—	2,047
Tonnage	249,533	278,893	29,360	—

5. Comparative returns showing in detail the tonnage to and from the United Kingdom, the British Colonies, and Foreign Countries during 1869 and 1870, are herewith submitted:—

VESSELS ENTERED, 1869 and 1870.

Countries whence Arrived.	1869.								
	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
United Kingdom	31	10,269	397	3	702	25	34	10,951	422
British Colonies, viz.:									
Canada	81	7,659	491	7	567	46	88	8,226	537
Nova Scotia	822	116,874	5,014	128	9,860	682	950	126,734	5,696
New Brunswick	357	51,778	2,002	30	856	92	387	52,634	2,094
Newfoundland	26	1,187	120	7	699	36	33	1,886	156
Bermuda and West Indies	4	314	22	1	92	6	5	406	28
Foreign Countries, viz.:									
United States	84	25,557	1,234	16	2,423	98	100	27,980	1,332
Portugal	—	—	—	2	466	16	2	466	16
Spain	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Pierre	7	340	25	13	597	51	20	973	76
Uraguay	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1,412	213,958	9,305	207	16,262	1,052	1,619	230,220	10,357

Countries whence Arrived.	1870.								
	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
United Kingdom	39	12,900	410	1	216	8	40	13,116	418
British Colonies, viz.:									
Canada	57	10,465	587	4	157	19	61	10,622	606
Nova Scotia	898	133,161	4,820	132	12,348	811	1,030	145,509	5,631
New Brunswick	432	66,549	2,582	49	1,705	149	481	68,254	2,731
Newfoundland	34	1,527	147	14	1,091	68	48	2,618	215
Bermuda and West Indies	5	570	33	2	225	12	7	795	45
Foreign Countries, viz.:									
United States	83	22,043	1,121	4	714	26	87	22,757	1,147
Portugal	—	—	—	2	535	27	2	535	27
Spain	2	396	15	1	195	7	3	591	22
St. Pierre	3	182	14	10	527	40	13	709	54
Uraguay	—	—	—	1	299	8	1	299	8
Total	1,553	247,793	9,729	220	18,012	1,175	1,773	265,805	10,904

VESSELS CLEARED, 1869 and 1870.

Countries to which Departed.	1869.								
	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
United Kingdom - -	77	22,129	712	—	—	—	77	22,129	712
British Colonies, viz.:									
Canada - - -	35	2,063	171	29	3,091	218	64	5,154	389
Nova Scotia - -	629	106,482	4,764	361	23,951	1,499	990	130,433	6,263
New Brunswick - -	229	51,923	4,679	182	9,729	664	411	61,652	5,343
Newfoundland - -	73	5,247	357	—	—	—	73	5,247	357
Bermuda and West Indies - - -	8	674	45	—	—	—	8	674	45
Foreign Countries, viz.:									
United States - -	47	22,850	1,026	2	230	12	49	23,080	1,038
St. Pierre - - -	26	1,164	103	—	—	—	26	1,164	103
Cuba - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - - -	1,124	212,532	11,857	574	37,001	2,393	1,698	249,533	14,250

Countries to which Departed.	1870.								
	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
United Kingdom - -	84	24,319	763	—	—	—	84	24,319	763
British Colonies, viz.:									
Canada - - - -	34	2,344	206	27	3,531	223	61	5,875	429
Nova Scotia - -	634	121,033	5,068	446	33,320	1,737	1,080	154,353	6,805
New Brunswick - -	264	57,781	1,988	202	11,622	749	466	69,403	2,737
Newfoundland - -	75	4,882	357	2	82	13	77	4,964	370
Bermuda and West Indies - - -	8	822	48	—	—	—	8	822	48
Foreign Countries, viz.:									
United States - -	53	17,703	937	—	—	—	53	17,703	937
St. Pierre - - -	25	1,205	101	—	—	—	25	1,205	101
Cuba - - -	2	249	13	—	—	—	2	249	13
Total - - -	1,179	230,338	9,481	677	48,555	2,722	1,856	278,893	12,203

6. There arrived here in 1869 and 1870 from the

	1869.		1870.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
United Kingdom - -	34	10,951	40	13,116
British Colonies - - -	1,463	189,886	1,627	227,798
Foreign Countries - -	122	29,383	106	24,891
Total - - -	1,619	230,220	1,773	265,805

and we despatched in the same years to the

	1869.		1870.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
United Kingdom - -	77	22,129	84	24,319
British Colonies - - -	1,546	203,160	1,692	235,417
Foreign Countries - -	75	24,244	80	19,157
Total - - -	1,698	249,533	1,856	278,893

being, on the whole, an improvement which speaks well for the commercial prosperity of the Colony.

Agriculture.

7. Having already submitted, under the heads of Soil and Imports and Exports, a sufficiently-detailed explanation of the agricultural position of the Colony, I will here confine myself to a few remarks on prices and the rate of wages.

Prices.

8. I append a return showing the average prices of farm stock and of the various articles of produce and consumption for the years 1869 and 1870 respectively. It will be observed that the return exhibits an upward tendency, especially in respect of articles of daily household use, and that on the whole the cost of living is considerably higher than it was ten years ago:—

COMPARATIVE RETURN of AVERAGE PRICES.

Articles.	Prices. 1860.			1870.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wheaten flour, per barrel of 196 lbs.	1	10	0	1	13	4
Wheat, per imperial bushel	0	6	8	0	7	0
Wheaten bread, per lb.	0	0	2	0	0	2
Horned cattle	5	0	0	4	0	0
Horses	16	0	0	15	0	0
Sheep	0	13	0	0	15	0
Goats	1	0	0	0	12	0
Swine	2	0	0	0	14	0
Milk, per quart	0	0	2	0	0	2¾
Butter, fresh, per lb.	0	0	8	0	0	10
„ salt „	0	0	7½	0	0	9
Cheese	0	0	6	0	0	6
Beef	0	0	4	0	0	5
Mutton	0	0	3	0	0	4
Pork	0	0	3	0	0	4
Rice	0	0	3	0	0	3½
Coffee	0	0	8	0	1	0
Tea	0	2	4	0	2	0
Sugar	0	0	5	0	0	4½
Salt, per bushel	0	1	4	0	1	4
Wine, per gallon	0	12	6	0	14	0
Brandy	0	16	0	0	16	0
Beer	0	1	0	0	1	4
Tobacco, per lb.	0	1	4	0	1	8

9. As connected with the cost of living, I may add that house rents are high and increasing, that gas costs 13*s.* 4*d.* per 1,000 feet, and good house coal 15*s.* 4*d.* per ton.

Wages.

10. The average rate of wages is as under:—

Description of Labour.	Per Annum. £	s.	d.	Per Day. s.	d.
Prædial	—			2	8
Domestic:—					
Male	20	0	0	—	
Female	10	0	0	—	
Trades	—			5	0

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

11. Domestic servants are scarce and indifferent, heads of families complaining that the moment servants begin to understand their duties they betake themselves to the United States, being attracted thither by the prospect of higher wages than are usually paid in Prince Edward Island.

PART IX.

FINANCIAL.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The Colonial revenue is principally derived from ad valorem and specific import duties, land assessments, sales of public and Crown lands, licences, and fees. There are no direct taxes, with the exception of those on land.

2. The following is a list of the duties collected during 1870 on some of the chief articles of import:—

Articles.	Percentage ad valorem.	Specific Duties.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Anchors and chain cables	1 0 0	—
Apothecaries' ware	11 0 0	—
Boots and shoes	12 10 0	—
Clothing	12 10 0	—
Copper and composition	2 0 0	—
Cordage	2 0 0	—
Dry goods	11 0 0	—
Earthenware and chinaware	11 0 0	—
Flour, foreign, per bbl.	—	0 1 0
Fruit, dried, per lb.	—	0 0 0⅔
Glass and glassware	11 0 0	—
Hardware and cutlery	11 0 0	—
Iron, bar, and steel	5 0 0	—
Ironmongery	11 0 0	—
Leather, sole, per lb.	—	0 0 0⅔
„ other kinds	5 0 0	—
Molasses, per gal.	—	0 0 2⅔
Mowing machines	11 0 0	—
Oakum	2 0 0	—
Oil, kerosene, per gal.	—	0 0 5
„ linseed „	11 0 0	—
Paint	11 0 0	—
Paper and stationery	11 0 0	—
Sails and sail cloth	2 0 0	—
Soap	11 0 0	—
Spirits — Brandy, per gal.	—	0 3 0
Spirits — Gin „	—	0 2 8
Spirits — Rum „	—	0 1 4
Spirits — Whisky „	—	0 2 8
Stoves	11 0 0	—
Sugar, refined, per lb.	—	0 0 2
„ unrefined, per cwt.	—	0 4 8
Tea, per lb.	—	0 0 2⅔
Tobacco, manufactured, per lb.	—	0 0 4
„ unmanufactured „	—	0 0 2
Wines, claret and other light	25 0 0	—
„ port and sherry, per gal., in addition to 5 per cent. ad valorem	5 0 0	0 2 8
Wood wares	12 10 0	—

3. The import duties are now considerably higher than they were last year, an additional rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. having been imposed by the Legislature on the 17th April, 1871, for railway purposes.

4. On improved and cultivated rural land the tax is 4*s.* $5\frac{1}{2}$*d.* per 100 acres; on unimproved rural land, 6*s.* 2*d.* per 100 acres. The selling price of Government rural land varies, as stated elsewhere, from 4*s.* to 6*s.* 8*d.* per acre.

5. The licences established by Statute are as under:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Retail tavern licence	2	6	8
Distiller's licence	16	13	4
Store licence to sell spirituous liquors	5	0	0
Hawker's licence to travel on foot	1	13	4
„ „ „ with a beast	3	6	8

6. The fees received in the several executive departments are paid into the Treasury to the credit of the general revenue. The Lieut.-Governor, the heads of executive departments, and their assistants in office, receive specific salaries under Statute, and do not retain any fees for their own use. I subjoin a Table of the fees now exacted at the different public offices:—

A TABLE of FEES exacted at the PUBLIC OFFICES, under STATUTE.

Description.	Fees at Colonial Secretary's Office. Sterling.			Fees at Custom House. Sterling.			Fees at Land Office. Sterling.			Fees at Registrar's Office. Sterling.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
The Great Seal of Prince Edward Island	0	7	9	—			—			—		
Ditto to grants of land	0	6	8	—			—			—		
The Lieutenant-Governor's Seal	0	6	8	—			—			—		
A licence to marry	0	7	9	—			—			—		
„ distil spirituous liquors	0	7	9	—			—			—		
„ vend „ „	0	7	9	—			—			—		
„ hawk merchandise	0	7	9	—			—			—		
Other licences	0	7	9	—			—			—		
Certificate ship registry		—		0	3	4		—			—	
Bill sale of ship		—		0	1	6		—			—	
Miscellaneous certificates		—		0	1	6		—			—	
Declaration, ship		—		0	0	8		—			—	
Fishing licence		—			—		0	6	8		—	
Search		—			—		0	0	8		—	
Certificate registry of deed		—			—			—		0	0	8
Registry of deeds, per 100 words		—			—			—		0	0	8
Affidavit		—			—			—		0	0	8
Search		—			—			—		0	0	8

7. Below will be found comparative statements in detail of the revenue and expenditure for 1869 and 1870, and a Table showing, in round numbers, the financial condition of the Colony for the last ten years.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

1.—COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the REVENUE for 1869–70.

Nature of Tax or Duty.	Amount collected in 1869.			Amount collected in 1870.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Import duties	44,088	15	5	46,225	11	8½
Light and anchorage dues	704	11	3	753	15	6½
Land assessments	2,565	10	3	3,081	17	4½
Sale of public lands	5,358	10	10	8,017	16	0
„ Crown lands	19	8	8½	46	3	11
Post Office	1,541	10	0	1,566	13	4
Fees at Secretary's office	333	16	9	157	19	7½
„ Registrar's office	292	8	8½	260	12	4
„ Custom House	34	0	6½	35	6	0
„ bonded warehouse	69	7	11	90	10	0
„ Prince of Wales College	9	6	10	33	12	0½
„ land assessment	2	10	4	2	13	6
Licence duty at Treasury	428	0	0	487	6	8
Fines and penalties	45	15	4½	77	19	5¾
Interest on bonds	876	8	3½	992	0	0
Wharfage	1	9	10	56	0	1¾
Sale of military barracks	1,174	4	3	—		
Seed grain Committee	164	19	4	67	0	3¾
Fees, Normal School	10	13	4	—		
Interest at Savings Bank	573	13	4½	—		
Rent of Warren Farm	37	0	8	18	10	4
Souris Breakwater	23	12	0	—		
Victoria Barracks	960	19	4	—		
Moneys returned Loan Act	—			82	8	8
„ „ for ammunition	—			34	0	5
Rent of wharves	—			110	13	3¾
Miscellaneous	12	13	4	31	17	4
Total	£59,326	6	8	62,230	8	7½

2.—COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the EXPENDITURE for 1869–70.

Nature of Expenditure.	Amount of Expenditure in 1869.			Amount of Expenditure in 1870.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Education	13,347	15	11	12,924	18	4
Roads, bridges, and wharves	10,549	1	2	13,149	10	6
Public officers	5,136	13	3	6,847	11	10
Interest	6,754	4	1	7,974	18	4½
Mails and Post Offices	3,578	9	7	3,754	17	11½
Legislature and library	2,397	4	6	2,666	4	2
Public lands	515	3	8	351	19	3½
Printing and stationery	1,142	10	4	1,091	0	7½
Asylum and hospital	1,020	11	0	994	1	7½
Lighthouses, buoys, and beacons	839	5	3	900	7	10½
Jails and Crown prosecutions	1,168	5	8	582	6	2
Paupers	709	8	11	681	8	10
Volunteers and militia	1,468	9	8	1,377	17	10
Telegraph Company	430	1	8	763	17	2
Government House	417	18	4	223	2	6
Excise department	697	17	8	459	2	10¼
Colonial building	461	6	2	519	13	6½
Stock farm and society	553	6	8	637	11	6½
Coroners' inquests	104	14	2½	101	6	5½
Market clerk, Georgetown	3	6	8	—		
Board of Health	154	16	5	180	19	10½
Indians	80	0	0	113	6	8
Loan Act and Treasury Note Commissioners	157	3	8	—		
Elections	43	2	4½	586	13	6½
Executive Council	73	5	4	98	16	10½

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the EXPENDITURE for 1869–70—*continued.*

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Nature of Expenditure.	Amount of Expenditure in 1869.	Amount of Expenditure in 1870.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Fishing licences	5 0 7	—
Dredging	195 18 8	—
Revised Statutes	38 4 0	—
Deaf and Dumb Institution	33 6 8	33 6 8
Debentures for land	7,333 6 8	4,933 6 8
Bonded warehouse	62 4 5	124 17 9
Board of Works	313 10 8½	130 17 10
Steam stone crusher	615 8 8	—
Distribution at Treasury	579 19 6	433 17 0
Grant to Steam Navigation Company	591 17 9½	783 6 8
Banquet to Prince Arthur	584 11 1½	83 9 7
Estates purchased	936 6 10½	162 5 5
Poor-house	266 13 4	440 13 4
Law Courts and Post Office, Charlottetown	—	4,99 3 8
Miscellaneous	884 5 2	1,557 15 1
Total	£64,244 16 4	70,662 14 1¼

3.—STATEMENT of REVENUE and EXPENDITURE from 1860 to 1870 inclusive.

Years.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Years.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£.	£.		£	£.
1860	28,742	41,196	1866	63,628	102,888
1861	28,006	32,799	1867	52,018	49,309
1862	25,600	34,190	1868	55,594	61,616
1863	41,126	36,440	1869	59,326	64,244
1864	44,216	38,574	1870	62,230	70,662
1865	45,360	48,350			

8. The foregoing Tables, 1 and 2, give the following results :—

REVENUE.

1869.		1870.		Increase.
£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
59,326 6 8	-	62,230 8 7½	-	2,904 1 11½

EXPENDITURE.

1869.		1870.		Increase.
£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
64,244 16 4	-	70,662 14 1¼	-	6,417 17 9¼

DEFICIT.

Revenue. 1870.		Expenditure, 1870.		Deficit, 31st Dec., 1870.
£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
62,230 8 7½	-	70,662 14 1¼	-	8,432 5 5¾

9. The statement of revenue and expenditure (Table 3) shows that the revenue has been increasing since 1860 at an average rate of 3,400*l.* a year. As regards the expenditure, which is also considerably higher than it was ten years ago, it may be remarked that the purchase of freehold estates, adverted to in a former paragraph,

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formed a heavy item in the recent disbursements of the Colony. Indeed the purchase of the Palmer estate it was which, added to an unusually heavy outlay on public works and buildings, caused the deficit as set forth in the last preceding paragraph.

10. The revenue of the island amounted in 1870 to 13*s.* 3*d.* per head on the population as shown by the last census; the taxation proper to 10*s.* 5¾*d.*

Local Revenues.

11. The only local revenue is that collected by the city of Charlottetown, which amounted last year to 2,770*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.* The expenditure for the same period (3,268*l.* 8*s.*) exceeded the revenue by 497*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*

12. The financial position of the city on the 31st December, 1870, was as under:—

Dr.	£	*s.*	*d.*	*Cr.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Debentures afloat 31st Dec., 1870	3,919	6	8	By balance in treasurer's hands	29	0	0
Interest due on ditto	106	9	0	By assessment unpaid	174	1	6
Sundry accounts unpaid	468	10	6	By steam fire-engines and engine-houses	1,733	6	8
Balance of property in excess of liabilities	1,522	2	0	By other property	4,080	0	0
	£6,016	8	2		£6,016	8	2

Public Debt.

13. It has been shown that the revenue for 1870 fell short of the expenditure by 8,432*l.* This deficit, added to the balance against the Colony on the 31st December, 1869 (97,257*l.*) made a total public debt on the 31st December, 1870 (inclusive of Treasury Notes, Warrants, and Debentures issued up to that date), of 105,689*l.*;* against which, however, may be placed 62,977*l.*, due on account of land sales, and 99,657 acres of unsold land.

Banks.

14. There are three banks in Charlottetown, one in Summerside, and one in the village of Rustico; namely:—

Name of Bank.	Date of Incorporation.	Limit of Capital Stock.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Last Dividend. When declared.	Rate.	Amount.	Amount of reserved profits at date of last dividend.	Bills due and not paid, and considered doubtful.
		£	£ *s.*	£ *s.* *d.*			£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	
Charlottetown:—									
Bank of P. E. Island	1855	40,000	88,810 10	64,479 18 2	Dec. 4, 1871	5 per cent.	1,000 0 0	4,229 10 11	Nil.
Union Bank	1863	40,000	80,245 0	77,237 0 0	Dec. 1, 1871	5 „	1,000 0 0	3,008 0 0	„
Merchants' Bank*	1871	40,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Summerside:—									
Summerside Bank	1865	40,000	—	—	Aug. 6, 1867	4 per cent.	274 15 0	536 3 6	1,575 19 2
Rustico:—									
Farmers' Bank	1863	14,133	—	—	Feb. 15, 1871	5 „	91 2 8	42 15 2	Nil.

* No return, bank not having been six months in operation.

15. I regret the incompleteness of the above return, but the statements of assets and liabilities, for which I have applied to the

* Equal to 1*l.* 2*s.* 5¾*d.* per head on the total population.

managers of the Summerside and Rustico banks, have not yet been received.

Savings Bank.

16. A savings bank in connection with the Treasury Department was established here in 1864, and has proved remarkably successful, as will be seen from the following return :—

Year ending	Population.*	No. of Depositors.	Total amount of Deposits.	Average to each Depositor.	Proportion of Depositors to Population.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
31st Dec., 1864	85,121	85	1,013 6 8	11 18 5	1 in 1001
,, ,, 1865	86,535	292	3,822 3 7	13 1 9	1 ,, 296
,, ,, 1866	87,949	421	7,470 9 7	17 14 10	1 ,, 208
,, ,, 1867	89,363	606	9,390 1 11	15 9 10	1 ,, 112
1st ,, 1868†	90,777	831	13,107 8 1	15 15 5	1 ,, 109
,, ,, 1869	92,191	1,158	17,658 2 2	15 4 11	1 ,, 79
,, ,, 1870	93,605	1,619	27,540 16 7	17 0 2	1 ,, 57
,, ,, 1871	94,021	2,185	44,609 9 0	20 8 0	1 ,, 43

* Estimated as regards the years 1864 to 1870 inclusive, the census not having been taken between 1861 and 1871.

† Termination of official year altered from 31st to 1st December by Statute.

17. Interest at the rate of five per cent. is paid to depositors on all sums not exceeding 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, sterling,* beyond which amount no interest is allowed.

18. Until last session the deposits receivable at the bank were limited to 33,333*l.* 12*s.*, sterling.† By virtue of an Act passed on the 4th March, 1871, the bank is now authorized to receive up to double the above amount, and should the marked success which has attended the working of this most valuable institution lead to the opening of branch offices in one or two of the principal country towns, it may fairly be expected that the benefits of the system will be even more largely availed of hereafter than they have been up to the present time.

Coin, &c., in circulation.

19. The amount of coin in circulation in the Colony, including that in the coffers of the banks, is estimated at 22,000*l.*; the paper currency at 89,690*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*, as under :—

	£	s.	d.
Treasury Notes - - - -	11,500	0	0
Notes of Bank Prince Edward Island - -	31,765	15	0
,, Union Bank - - -	21,480	15	0
,, Summerside Bank - - -	12,073	16	3
,, Farmers' Bank - - -	4,869	18	0
,, Government Treasury, and of private banking companies of the British American Colonies (estimated) -	6,000	0	0
Notes of United States (estimated) - -	2,000	0	0
Total - -	£89,690	4	3

* 100*l.* currency.

† 50,000*l.* currency.

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Currency.

20. I am happy to state that the currency of Prince Edward Island* is about to be assimilated to that of Canada and the United States, an Act having been passed during the last session of the Legislature to effect this important object by the introduction of a decimal system of keeping the public accounts.

21. The following is a copy of the Decimal Currency Act, 34 Vict., cap. 5, which is to come into full operation on the 1st February next, and will, there is no doubt, be of much public convenience and advantage:—

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A DECIMAL SYSTEM OF CURRENCY ON THIS ISLAND.

[Passed April 17, 1871.]

Whereas it is deemed expedient to assimilate the currency of this Island to that of the Dominion of Canada and of the United States of America, and to introduce a decimal system of keeping accounts in the public offices of this Colony:

Be it therefore enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council, and Assembly, as follows:—

I. The unit of account on this Island shall be the dollar of 100 cents; the value of which dollar shall be on the basis of 486 cents and two-thirds of a cent to the pound of British sterling money.

II. The accounts at all public offices on this Island shall be changed and kept on the decimal system, which shall go into operation at the times following:—For accounts kept at the savings bank, at the public Treasury, on the first day of December next. For the accounts kept at all Post Offices, the Money Order Office, and at all Excise Offices, and all other public offices, except the Treasury, on the first day of January next. For all accounts kept at the public Treasury, on the first day of February next.

III. The Lieutenant-Governor, in Council, is hereby authorized to empower the Commissioners for issuing Treasury Notes, to have suitable notes of the decimal currency prepared and signed, the same to be exchanged with the Colonial Treasurer for the Treasury Notes already in circulation, for the purposes of this Act.

IV. Gold and silver coins shall be a legal tender at the rates set forth in the Schedule A. hereunto annexed.

V. The Lieutenant-Governor, in Council, is hereby empowered to provide a coinage of copper cents for this Island, and to cause postage stamps of the new denomination to be issued as soon as practicable.

VI. The Act of 12 Vict., cap. 24, shall be, and the same is hereby repealed. Provided always, that this Act is not intended to interfere with debts already due, or with existing contracts, but the same may

---

* 100*l.* sterling plus 50 per cent., equal to 150*l.* currency.
100*l.* Nova Scotia currency „ 20 „ „ 120*l.* „
100*l.* New Brunswick „ „ 20 „ „ 120*l.* „
100*l.* Newfoundland „ „ 25 „ „ 125*l.* „
100*l.* United States „ equal to - - - - 80*l.* „

be converted into the equivalent value of the new currency hereby established, at and after the rate of three dollars and twenty-four and four-ninth cents to the pound of the present currency of this Island.

VII. From and after the first day of January next, all and singular the duties imposed by the Act passed or to be passed during the present session, intituled or to be intituled "An Act for raising a "revenue," shall be payable in the currency as defined by this Act.

Schedule A.

The British sovereign of the weight and fineness now established by law, four dollars and eighty-six and two-third cents. The crown piece of silver, one dollar and twenty cents. The half-crown piece, sixty cents. The florin, forty-eight cents. The shilling, twenty-four cents. The sixpence, twelve cents. The American gold dollar, one dollar. The Mexican and Spanish silver dollar, one dollar. The Spanish doubloon, sixteen dollars. The Mexican doubloon, fifteen dollars and forty cents. The twenty franc gold piece, three dollars and eighty cents. The five franc silver piece, ninety cents. The Canadian silver coinage, at its facial value.

22. The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have observed that the above Act contains no provision fixing the amounts to which silver and copper coins, respectively, may be tendered in any one payment; and they have suggested that the limits prescribed in section 7 of the Canada Act, cap. 4 of 1871 should be adopted in Prince Edward Island, viz.:—$10 for silver and 25 cents for copper coins.

23. It also appears to their Lordships that the "American gold "dollar" mentioned in Schedule A. of the Act should be defined, e.g., as "the gold dollar of the United States of America, coined "after 1st July, 1834, and before 1st January, 1852, or after the "latter date, but of the same weight and standard of fineness." And they consider that it would be better to exclude all silver *foreign* coins from circulation in the Colony, but that if the Mexican and Spanish silver dollars be admitted, those coins should be strictly defined.

24. The amendments suggested by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury will be submitted to the Legislature at an early date.

PART X.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Post Office.

1. I submit a comparative statement of postal and money order statistics for 1869 and 1870, which shows that a considerable extension of the mail service has been effected during the last two years.

2. Of newspapers, packets, and book parcels (no record of such

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being kept at the Post Office) I have been unable to procure a return.

	1869.	1870.	Increase.	Decrease.
Number of letters carried	503,000	511,000	8,000	—
„ post offices	121	138	17	—
„ persons employed in General Post Office	4	5	1	—
Number of country postmasters	120	137	17	—
„ mail carriers	37	41	4	—
„ miles travelled by mails	511	534	23	—
„ miles of annual mail travel	97,057	98,172	1,115	—
Number of money orders issued	652	638	—	14
„ money orders paid	286	303	17	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Total amount of orders issued	4,184 18 6	3,941 1 0	—	243 17 6
„ amount of orders paid	1,153 14 8	1,091 15 4	—	61 19 4
„ income of post office	1,541 10 0	1,566 13 4	25 3 4	—
„ expenditure of post office (including subsidies to mail steamers)	4,086 1 3	4,174 9 6	88 8 3	—

Militia.

3. The militia consists of 16 regiments, seven for Queen's County, five for King's County, and four for Prince County, but as the men are neither armed nor drilled (the law merely requiring that the regiments shall muster without drill on one day in the year), the force is of no service to the country, except in so far as it may serve as a nucleus capable of expansion, should occasion unhappily arise. The fault does not lie either with the officers or with the men, amongst whom there is no want of zeal; but unfortunately the Legislature does not appear to be alive to the importance of providing for the protection of the Colony, and on the amount annually voted for militia purposes it is impossible that an efficient force can be maintained.

4. At the last annual muster of the militia, the total number of officers and men present was 12,421, being 122 less than on the previous occasion.

5. Of volunteers there are nine companies of 50 men each. These men are armed and accoutered, and present a creditable appearance. The effectives (the qualification for an effective being attendance at 16 drills in the course of the year) receive the insignificent sum of 13*s.* 4*d.* a head per annum for clothing. Arms and ammunition are provided for the volunteers at the Government expense, but the rifles are of the old muzzle-loading (Enfield) pattern, and would be of little service against an enemy armed with a more modern weapon.

6. I submit a return of the enrolled and effective members in each company of the volunteer militia for 1870.

7. I have lately been engaged in considering certain changes in the composition of the volunteer companies, which will, I hope, enable me to draw attention to a less unsatisfactory state of things in my next Annual Report.

8. The total annual expense of the militia department is 1,000*l.*

sterling, that being the sum allowed by the Legislature for purposes of defence.

Corps.	No. enrolled.	No. effective.
1st Troop Mounted Rifles - -	44	36
2nd „ „ - -	52	24
1st Battery Artillery - - -	51	7
2nd „ „ - - -	53	7
No. 1 Company Rifles - -	53	0
No. 2 „ „ - - -	52	3
No. 3 „ „ - - -	53	9
No. 4 „ „ - - -	47	21
No. 5 „ „ - - -	50	2
Total - - - - -	455	109

Conclusion.

9. Prince Edward Island still holds aloof from the union of the North American Provinces, the proposals made by the Government of Canada in 1869, commonly known as the "better terms," having been rejected by a large majority of the local Legislature. I am, however, disposed to think that Confederation is now only a question of time, and that the people (without whose spontaneous acquiescence it is, I admit, impossible that the union can ever be successfully effected) will eventually see that their best interests would be promoted by the change. "That in time of war or tumult the "armed force of the British North American Provinces should be one, "under one supreme command; that in time of peace their commerce, "their post, their great lines of communication, and, with due regard "to local usage, their civil and criminal jurisdiction, should be governed "by the same rules; that an extended public opinion should be "brought to bear on the settlement of narrow local controversies; and "that the affairs of British North America should be administered "by a combination of the ablest men whom it can furnish"*—are benefits so indisputable, and so permanent in their character as to render it difficult to believe that Prince Edward Island will long permit any surmountable obstacles to interfere with their full attainment. Adverting to the question of Confederation, Sir Charles Adderley, in his 'Review of Earl Grey's Colonial Policy,' remarks, "A combined revenue will command great credit, while adding to "itself by greater economy;" and this, too, is an argument the weight of which will sooner or later be appreciated.

10. This report embraces many subjects not included in the Blue Book. Its accuracy may, I think, be relied on, and I hope it will be found useful as a record from which to mark the future progress of the Colony.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON,
Lt.-Governor.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

* Earl of Carnarvon to Lieut.-Governor Dundas 19th January, 1867.

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[No. 3.

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No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 88.)

Government House, Newfoundland,
December 5, 1871.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book, in duplicate, of Newfoundland, for the year 1870, to which I have appended observations on the different heads therein enumerated.

I am happy to be able to state that the past year may be looked upon as one of great prosperity in this Colony, and that the state of her affairs has improved considerably during the past three years.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, (Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL.
&c. &c. &c.

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1. *Taxes, Duties, and other Sources of Revenue.*

No special changes, except a slight reduction in duties on flour and bread, have taken place in the year 1870. An import tax is the only duty levied, with the exception of light dues, which are collected under the authority of an Act, 18 and 19 Vict., cap. 5. There are no export duties in force in the Colony.

2. *Fees.*

The fees payable under certain circumstances to the public officers were established prior to the introduction of a Legislature into the Colony, and have since undergone no alteration. Fees in the Vice-Admiralty Court are similar to those prescribed for Courts of Vice-Admiralty abroad.

3. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

The revenue for the past year, notwithstanding the reduction of 10,000*l.* taxes on flour and bread, was greater than that of any former year, having reached the large sum of 183,289*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* British sterling. This great increase in the revenue, as compared with several years prior to 1869, was owed almost altogether to the good seal and cod fisheries, which saved the bulk of the population from poverty, and provided them with means to supply themselves with a stock of the necessaries of life. The demand for articles of food, and especially for items under the head of "dry goods," was very great, and consequently swelled the revenue to an extent which those conversant with

the affairs of Newfoundland could not have anticipated. The expenditure of the year amounted to 147,844*l.* 6*s.* 7½*d.* sterling, somewhat in excess of the usual estimate. There is exhibited an extraordinary charge of nearly 8,000*l.* for repairing damage caused by destructive fires which raged in the woods during the summer months, and by extensive floods, which, in the month of September, carried away bridges and rendered roads impassable, and necessitated a large outlay. But for this unexpected demand on the public funds, the expenditure for the year 1870 would have differed but little from that of former years. I do not observe under the foregoing head any other points which call for particular comment.

4. *Comparative Yearly Statements of Revenue and Expenditure.*

As compared with the year 1869, the Customs revenue for 1870 shows a large increase, and a slight excess in the light dues is perceptible. The balance of the floating debt, viz. 16,600*l.*, has been paid, and notwithstanding an increase in the expenditure, owing principally to the item alluded to under the preceding head, a considerable surplus remained in the hands of the Treasury at the end of the past year.

5. *Local Revenues.*

There is no municipal or other body authorized to raise and appropriate any local revenue except under the control of the Governor in Council, under Acts for the introduction of water into St. John's, and provision for sewage therein; special provision is made for payment of these services by local rates and assessments on ground rents and other real property, and these are fixed by the Government.

6. *Public Debt.*

The debt of the Colony amounted to $1,162,818·03 at the end of the past year. That portion of it which fell due in the year in question was paid off. Of the total amount of the public debt a sum of $318,302·22 has been under several Acts consolidated; a sum of $1,585·88 is the amount of unpaid debentures issued under Act 25 Vict., cap. 3, for compensation for losses sustained by election riots in certain districts, and payable out of future road grants; and the balance of the Colonial debt, amounting to $842,929·93, is repayable in various years from 1871 to 1892.

There is a large portion of the public debt, viz. $317,733·70 falling due in 1873, which will have to be paid by a new loan bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent. This loan will in all probability be readily taken up. I, however, think that the holders of the present debentures of the sum in question will be glad to renew them for a further term of twenty years. I may here remark that all the debentures issued for the public debt of this Colony are held solely by the people of Newfoundland.

The total debt I do not consider large, as the revenue now averages $700,000 annually, and as that amount pays all the current expenses and the interest of the public debt, leaving a balance for improve-

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ments, the financial affairs of Newfoundland may therefore be considered in a sound and healthy condition.

7. *Military Expenditure.*

The troops were withdrawn from the Colony during the past year. The cost of the garrison recently stationed at St. John's was defrayed from Imperial funds. There is no militia force in existence in Newfoundland, and although some companies of Rifle Volunteers were formed when the movement was first agitated in England, all interest in their perpetuity seems to have disappeared.

8. *Public Works.*

A lighthouse, since completed, was in course of construction at Ferryland Head during the year 1870.

The light was exhibited for the first time on the 1st October, 1871. It is a white light of the third order, burning on a brick tower 200 feet above the level of the sea, visible in favourable weather 16 nautical miles. The lighthouse is situated in latitude 47° 0′ 58″ N., and longitude 52° 51′ 7″ W. The tower is built of red bricks. The keeper's dwelling detached from the tower is painted white and the roof red. Since the exhibition of this light commanders of vessels report it as most brilliant, being visible at a distance of nearly 18 miles.

9. *Legislation.—Laws, Proclamations, &c.*

Thirteen Ordinances were passed by the local Legislature during the year 1870. These Acts were transmitted to England on the 5th July of the same year, with the usual report from the Crown Law Officer; having received Her Majesty's sanction, and not being of unusual character, require now no special comment. Proclamations and Orders in Council received from the Colonial Office, which required promulgation, were published in the 'Royal Gazette,' and all documents connected with the laws of neutrality in reference to the hostilities which had broken out between France and Prussia, received, in accordance with the instructions of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the widest publicity.

10. *Political Franchise.*

Occupation of a dwelling house as owner or tenant for two years immediately preceding the day of election is the qualification necessary for a voter in this Colony. The qualification of members of the House of Assembly is defined by the Imperial Statute, 5 & 6 Vict., c. 120, s. 1, and is as follows:—"A net annual income arising from "any source whatever of 100*l.*, or the possession of property clear of "all incumbrances exceeding 500*l.* in amount or value."

The Statute also enacts that any person wishing to be put in nomination as a candidate must have occupied a dwelling house as owner or tenant thereof for the period of two years next immediately preceding the day of election. The constitution granted to the Island

in 1832 established nine electoral districts, returning fifteen members, but by local Act of Victoria cap. 3, Burgeo and La Poile were constituted one electoral district, and total number of members increased to thirty.

11. *Councils and Assembly.*

On the 14th February, 1870, a new Government, under the leadership of Mr. Charles Fox Bennett, was formed, consisting of the following members, viz. :—Mr. Charles Fox Bennett, Premier, Mr. James S. Clift, Mr. Thomas Talbot, Mr. Thomas Glen, Mr. Henry Renouf, Mr. Joseph J. Little, and Mr. Robert Alsop.

Mr. Clift was a member of the Legislative Council and the other gentlemen members of the House of Assembly. Mr. Talbot was, however, on a vacancy occurring in the Legislature, soon after the formation of the new Executive Council, removed from the House of Assembly to the Upper Chamber, and subsequently Mr. Alsop, who having been appointed Colonial Secretary, was rejected on appealing to his constituents.

The venerable President of the Legislative Council, Mr. Lawrence O'Brien, died in the month of April, 1870, and was succeeded by Mr. Edward Morris, senior member of the Council. Mr. Augustus Harvey, Mr. Robert Thorburn, Mr. Thomas Talbot, and Mr. Robert Alsop were appointed members of this Council during the year.

In the House of Assembly few changes occurred. Mr. Lewis Tessier was elected for the district of St. John's West, without opposition, in the room of Mr. Henry Renouf, who at the general election of November 1869 had been elected for two districts. On appealing to his constituents, Mr. R. Alsop was defeated by Mr. John Warren for the district of Trinity Bay. No further changes of note took place in the foregoing bodies during the year 1870.

12. *Civil Establishment.*

Few changes have taken place in the above establishment. The officials of the Colony perform their duties with zeal and ability, and are in many cases inadequately remunerated for the performance of arduous labours. The Government, although most anxious to bestow ample salaries on their officers, are obliged, owing to the precarious revenue, to curtail the public expenditure as much as possible.

13. *Officers who have given Security for the Discharge of their Duties.*

The Receiver-General gives security for the due performance of his duties, under local Act 18 & 19 Vict., cap. 6 (uniting offices of Collector and Treasurer).

Customs' officers give security under Customs' Management Act.

Sheriffs under Sheriffs' Act (local) 10 Vict., cap 3. Cashier of savings bank, treasurer, clerk, postmaster and deputies, collector of water rates, and shipping master, under the following Acts or authorities :—Act for establishment of savings bank; by order of Governor

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in Council; Act to regulate the inland post of the Colony; Water Company Act, 22 Vict., cap. 7; and authority of the Board of Trade, respectively. Any other officers who give security usually do so before the Judges of the Supreme Court.

14. *Pensions.*

On the introduction of Responsible Government into this Colony, in 1855, Mr. E. M. Archibald, now British Consul at New York, vacated the office of Attorney-General, and was awarded a pension. In the following year Mr. B. G. Garratt was, in consequence of certain modifications having been effected in the office of Sheriff, placed on the pension list. A few awards are given to those who, from age or infirmity, are unable to fulfil the duties of office, or to persons who have rendered service to the Colony. Annuities of the following amounts, viz. 40*l*., 30*l*., and 30*l*. sterling respectively have been conferred upon three widows, whose husbands were killed while engaged in the performance of their duties. The pension list of Newfoundland appears extremely moderate.

15. *Abstract of Expenditure for Civil, Judicial, Ecclesiastical Establishments, &c.*

A sum of $1,440 is paid from Imperial funds towards the maintenance of the Ecclesiastical Establishment. The expenses of the other establishments, amounting to $708,212·77, fall on the colonial exchequer.

16. *Foreign Consuls.*

The following countries are represented by Consuls or Vice-Consuls:—Spain, the United States, German Empire, Sweden and Norway, Portugal, France, Denmark, and Italy. Spanish vessels, and occasionally Portuguese during the summer months, frequent the ports of St. John and Harbour Grace, and the coast of Labrador, for the purpose of conveying fish to good markets, usually the West Indies, Brazil, Spain, and the Mediterranean. The arrival of vessels of other nations is rare. The duties of the Consuls, therefore, with the exception of Señor Blanco, the Spanish Vice-Consul, are extremely light.

17. *Population.*

Several statistics under this head cannot be accurately or even roughly ascertained, owing to local difficulties. The interior of the Island, supposed to abound in lakes, called by the inhabitants ponds, is as yet unexplored, and the area thereof in square miles unknown. The population to the square mile cannot therefore be computed. The people are dispersed along the coast, their habitations being, as a rule, built not more than a mile or two from the sea, except in the peninsula of Avalon, where a few villages and houses of shelter are scattered here and there in the interior.

Although an Act of the Legislature, 28 Vict., cap. 5, providing

for an annual registration of births, marriages, and deaths, was passed, it was found that the frequent isolation of some of the districts* from the seat of Government, and other causes, rendered the required returns from many localities unreliable, and therefore useless for insertion in statistical tables. The Micmacs, the only Indian tribe in this country, number under 200.

18. *Savings Banks, Friendly Societies, Immigrants and Emigrants, &c.*

There is a savings bank in St. John's, with a branch at Harbour Grace; both establishments are extensively availed of. I find no institution in the Colony under the head of "Friendly Societies." Few persons immigrate to Newfoundland. A large number of female servants, during the year 1870, left the Island for America, where, attracted by the prospect of large wages and other advantages, these women hoped to better their circumstances. But the constant work and drudgery exacted from domestics, and the great cost of living as compared with this country, soon showed the overtaxed servant that her new home offered few, if any, advantages over that which she had just quitted. I hear that several young women have already returned, and that many others only await a favourable opportunity to leave the United States.

19. *Ecclesiastical Return.*

The statistical points connected with above return are clearly given in the Blue Book. With respect to the clergymen of the various religious denominations, too much praise cannot be given to those gentlemen who make so many sacrifices to further the great works of religion and education. Notwithstanding the severe climate and the attendant hardships, the pastors of the several creeds diligently pursue their respective avocations undeterred by frequent perils, and sometimes by the untimely fate of one of their brethren.

20. *Education, Newspapers, and Reviews.*

There are perhaps few colonies in which the rudiments of an elementary education are so readily afforded as in Newfoundland. The Government grants to the various district schools are liberal, and bring the attainment of reading, writing, arithmetic, and the management of accounts, within the easy reach of all the poorer classes. As a rule amongst the fishing population the women are better educated than the men. This is easily accounted for by the fact that a boy, as soon as he is able to handle an oar, is at once employed by his father to help him to manage his boat and catch fish, and the important matter of the son's education remains unheeded.

There are some institutions which offer a good classical and

* In some of the northern districts for several months during the winter the harbours are blocked with ice, and the roads, which scarcely deserve the name, impassable from heavy snow.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

mathematical education, and others which train, for the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church, candidates for the priesthood of each religion. The nuns of the latter faith, with praiseworthy disinterestedness, devote themselves to the careful training of their flock, and those who can afford it may receive an excellent education from these accomplished ladies. I may add that the convent school at the French Island of St. Pierre is availed of by some parents in St. John's, and in a few instances persons of the Protestant Church have been tempted by the excellence of this institution to confide their daughters to the care of its inmates.

There are several newspapers published in St. John's, and one in Harbour Grace, but no review or magazine of any description has yet been offered to the public.

21. *Coins, Exchanges, &c., &c.*

The Act 26 Vict., cap. 18, providing for the issue of a local coinage, and for keeping accounts in dollars and cents., was brought into operation at the beginning of 1865. The local coins are five, ten, twenty, and fifty cent silver pieces, and two dollar or two hundred cent gold pieces ; bronze cent coins, are also in circulation. British and American gold and silver moneys are made legal tenders. The doubloon, the Peruvian, Mexican, and Spanish dollars, and the several divisions of such coins are also made legal tenders. No tender of silver coins is valid to a greater extent, of British and foreign coinage, than ten dollars. The greater part of the trade of this country being effected by barter, it is difficult to estimate the amount of coin in circulation. It is conjectured to be from 80,000*l.* to 100,000*l.*

There are two banks established in the Colony, viz. "The Union Bank," and "The Commercial Bank," with a capital each of 50,000*l.* These establishments in the year ended the 31st May, 1870, circulated respectively bank notes to the amount of 126,529*l.*, and 54,309*l.* The directors of the former bank during the year in question declared a dividend of 10 per cent. to the holders of original shares, and the directors of the latter bank in the same period awarded their original shareholders a dividend of 8 per cent.

Exchange in the Colony varies according to circumstances, and to the demand for bills to remit to England in payment of goods, &c. &c. imported into the Colony. It is generally highest towards the close of the year. The demand is governed in a great measure by the result of the cod and spring seal fisheries. If successful, remittances are made chiefly in oil, if otherwise, bills of exchange are remitted.

22. *Imports and Exports.*

The value of imports and exports of this Colony in 1870 amounted to $6,655,849 and $6,230,276 respectively. The principal exports are codfish, cod and seal oils, seal skins, and of late years large quantities of copper ore have been shipped to England. The demand for this article has been so small during the past year, that several cargoes of it still remain unsold. The imports comprise almost every necessary and useful article.

23. *Shipping.*

The revenue in 1870 having been unprecedentedly large, it is almost unnecessary to state that the tonnage of vessels cleared and entered was unusually great, having amounted to over 300,000 tons.

24. *Agriculture, Cultivated and Uncultivated Lands, Wages, &c., &c.*

It has been frequently asserted that the agricultural capabilities of the Island are extremely small. Those who are acquainted with Newfoundland will be best able to appreciate the difficulty of giving a correct opinion on this point. Not only is there no map of the interior, but no general knowledge of it is to be had. The few roads which exist (except those in the peninsula of Avalon) are made along the coast, and lead but from one settlement to another. No roads have yet been constructed towards the interior. It seems to me, therefore, a somewhat bold assertion to affirm that a country of which so little is known can never become an agricultural country. Those who so assert, probably prefer the precarious but sometimes largely remunerative pursuit of fishing, to the toilsome, only moderately remunerative, but less precarious occupation of husbandry. My experience of this Colony tends to the belief, although its agricultural capabilities are not sufficiently great to tempt settlers to reside here, that fruitful results would be gathered by those who combined the pursuits of fishing and tillage. Then if the former failed (as it very often does) the latter would form a slight support. Unquestionably, if such a combination of occupations were more general throughout the island, the fearful distress which always follows a bad fishery would be greatly alleviated. The southern and eastern coasts, although presenting a bare and uninviting aspect, offer many desirable spots for cultivation, while the western shore abounds in extensive valleys rich with acres of fertile land.

The census of the Colony does not furnish the estimated acreage of cultivated and uncultivated land, nor is there any other source from whence it can be procured.

Female domestic servants receive about 12*l.* per annum, with board and lodging; servants employed as cooks receive about 24*l.* per annum, with board and lodging; tradesmen, such as masons, carpenters, &c., &c., are paid about 7*s.* per day; and labourers generally receive 3*s.* 6*d.* per day.

25. *Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries.*

Manufactured goods are imported into the Colony from Great Britain and Canada. A geological survey of the Island is being made. The discoveries in this science tend to the belief that the country is rich in mineral wealth. A copper mine at Tilt Cove, in Notre Dame Bay, has been for the past five years successfully worked, and afforded employment to about 200 people. The small demand for copper in England has this year necessitated the discharge of nearly two-thirds of the miners. I have recently been informed that ores of nickel have been found in considerable quantities at the

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Tilt Cove Mine. With respect to the fisheries: the catch of cod in the year 1870 was the largest known for many years, and the seal fishery was considerably above the average. The quantity of dry codfish exported was about 1,000,000 quintals, valued at $4,000,000. The consumption of fish in the Colony may be estimated at from 1½ to 2 quintals per head of the population per annum. The exports of cod and seal oils exceeded 9,000 tons, estimated at $1,470,262.

26. *Grants of Land.*

The total number of acres granted in the Colony cannot be correctly ascertained, but those under rent are annually decreasing in number by purchasing in fee simple. The average cost of land per acre is 3*s*.

27. *Gaols and Prisoners.*

There are three prisons in the Colony, the chief of which is the St. John's Penitentiary. I have inspected this institution, and consider it an exceedingly well-kept and well-managed gaol. Crime is rare in the Island. The frequent empty cells of the gaols bear ample testimony to this fact.

28. *Hospitals.*

The St. John's Hospital has been condemned as unsuitable for patients, and a new building is about to be erected. The Military Hospital, which has been handed over to the Colony on the withdrawal of the troops, has been utilized.

29. *Lunatic Asylum.*

The manner in which the management of this institution is conducted, is commendable. The building having been found too small for the wants of the community, the Legislature during the last session voted a sum to defray the expense of an addition to the asylum. A wing to the present edifice is now in course of construction, and will be soon ready for the reception of inmates.

30. *Charitable and Literary Institutions.*

There are several benevolent and charitable societies in St. John's and Harbour Grace, among which may be named "Church of "England Asylum for Widows and Orphans," "Benevolent Irish "Society," "St. John's Industrial Society," "St. George's Society," "St. Andrew's Society," "Society of St. Vincent de Paul," "Dorcas "Society," and many others, whose object is to mitigate the sufferings of the poor and the afflicted, and to minister to the wants and comforts of their respective members.

Conclusion.

In concluding my observations on the Blue Book of Newfoundland for the year 1870, I am happy to remark that her condition of affairs

has considerably altered for the better. During the year in question Providence has bestowed upon her excellent fisheries and good crops. The past year may therefore be safely considered as one of great prosperity in this Colony. NEWFOUNDLAND.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL.

BERMUDA.

BERMUDA.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir T. GORE BROWNE, K.C.M.G., C.B., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 24.)

MY LORD, Government House, Bermuda, April 3, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year ending 31st December, 1870.

2. The exports were 36,756*l.*, against 33,624*l.* in the previous year, and the imports 232,300*l.*, against 212,811*l.*

3. The expenditure was 33,302*l.*, against 32,039*l.*; but, in 1870, 4,700*l.* was borrowed for the Causeway, against 1,000*l.* in 1869. Roads and works cost 1,943*l.*, against 1,828*l.* in 1869.

4. The revenue from rum shows a marked and progressive increase from the year 1865.

5. The only legislative Act requiring notice is that which provides for the sale of Devonshire College lands, the funds derived from which are to be placed in the hands of trustees for the purpose of founding two schools, one for the white, and the other for the coloured people.

6. The Causeway is approaching completion, and is likely to be opened for traffic in a few weeks. It will be of use to the inhabitants, but will be far more valuable to the military, enabling them to communicate certainly and rapidly between St. George's and the fortifications round Hamilton, instead of being dependent on the precarious services of a ferry-boat, not available in stormy weather.

7. In conclusion, I have only to observe that, though the commercial prosperity of Bermuda is not equal to that of some other colonies, the amount of poverty is very small in comparison with that of most other countries, and the people generally are remarkably happy and contented.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) T. GORE BROWNE.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

British Columbia.

No. 5.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

No. 5.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Musgrave to The Earl of Kimberley.

(No. 66.) Government House, British Columbia,
My Lord, June 21, 1871.

I have the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1870, accompanied by a short commentary upon these statistics prepared by the Colonial Secretary. Mr. Hankin's report relieves me from the necessity of remarking upon matters of detail.

June 15, 1871.

2. The year to which these returns refer was a period of transition, during which legislation and all departments of public affairs were more or less affected by the negotiations then in progress for the union of British Columbia with the Dominion of Canada. It seemed generally undesirable to initiate any modification of existing arrangements which might again require reconsideration on the accomplishment of the greater contemplated change. But, although some injurious effect upon trade may have been produced by uncertainty as to the result of the negociations which were proceeding, and the possible change to the Canadian tariff, the year was fairly prosperous in respect of the material interests of the Colony. The explanation of the diminution of import duties is to be found quite as much in the increased production of articles of food and general consumption within our own borders, as in diminished consumption of imported merchandise.

3. Indeed, agriculture, stock raising, and the minor operations of husbandry, have been much and successfully extended, both on the mainland and on Vancouver Island; and applications for land for settlement have been numerous.

4. The older gold-fields at Cariboo and Kootenay are still productive, and give employment to a large number of miners, who conduct their enterprises upon more scientific systems than are found in "placer diggings." Although the results may not be so brilliant and attractive as in newer localities, they sufficiently reward steady and intelligent industry. But during the year reports were received of the discovery of "placer diggings" on the Findlay, Germansen, and other creeks or streams, tributaries of Peace River, in the northern part of the Colony. The first intelligence was viewed with some degree of doubt, as many such previous reports had been found to cause disappointment; but there now seems little reason to question that gold deposits have been found in the region of Peace River which have richly rewarded the first seekers, and bid fair to be as productive as the Cariboo district in the earlier days of the Colony. A large influx of mining population has been drawn by the news from the neighbouring states and territories, who are proceeding to these mines. Trade has been stimulated, and all branches of industry

have received an impetus. The local Government has endeavoured to facilitate communication with the Omineca district, as it is now called, and I have sent Mr. O'Reilly, the Chief Gold Commissioner, who is an experienced magistrate, to that place, to administer justice and ensure order, with instructions to report fully upon the prospects which are afforded, and the condition of the mining camps.

5. Renewed effort is being made by several companies to further develop the rich deposits of coal which Vancouver Island undoubtedly possesses, and I believe that in a short time many new mines will be in successful operation. One at least of the seams it is proposed to work produces coal of quality superior to that hitherto generally found, being in value for steam purposes about midway between Scotch and Welsh coal.

6. Upon the whole, your Lordship will see that the Colony is making progress, and will enter upon its new position as a Province of the Dominion with a bright promise for the future. Under the arrangements for union, the condition of the finances will be much improved. The public debt will be assumed by Canada, and the local revenue will be no longer affected by fluctuations in the receipts from Customs duties; while funds provided by the subsidies agreed upon, and from other sources of income, should be amply sufficient for lessened local requirements when relieved of the charges to be borne by the Federal Administration. I have little doubt that immigration, which is much desired, will be caused, at least to some limited extent, by the impending changes, and the attraction afforded by employment which may be obtained on the works to be soon commenced for the construction of the proposed railway. Already it is generally admitted that the value of property has increased, and new spirit has been largely infused into all branches of business undertakings. On relinquishing the administration of the Government after the union is completed, as will soon be the case, I shall do so in the belief, as well as the hope, that the progress of this magnificent Province, in prosperity and importance, will be both rapid and continuous.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, (Signed) A. Musgrave.
&c. &c. &c.

The Colonial Secretary to the Governor.

Colonial Secretary's Office, British Columbia,

Sir, June 15, 1871.

I have the honour to forward to your Excellency the Annual Blue Book for the year 1870, appending a few remarks for your Excellency's information.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The total revenue for 1870 amounted to $494,351, while that of 1869 was $530,470, thereby indicating a decrease of revenue for the year 1870 of $36,123.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

This decrease has arisen from a falling off in the revenue derived from the following heads, viz.:—Customs, port dues, road tolls, excise duties, rents exclusive of land, free miners' certificates, sale of Government property, reimbursements in aid of expenses incurred by the Government, and miscellaneous receipts.

A decrease is shown in the import duties of $30,549, and there is but little doubt it may be attributed to a considerable extent to the anticipated introduction of the Canadian tariff.

Public Debt.

No decrease appears in the public debt; the whole of the liabilities of the Colony will be taken over by the Dominion of Canada on confederation.

Public Works.

No public works of any importance have been undertaken in the year 1870, further than the construction of the telegraph line from Schome to Yale, at a cost of $2,000, and repairs to the telegraph line to Cariboo, at a cost of $7,000, together with the general repairs to the roads throughout the Colony, which was effected at a cost of about $63,267.

Legislation.

Eighteen Ordinances were passed in the session of 1870; of the majority of these it is not necessary that I should even repeat the titles, as they have been already reported on by your Excellency to the Secretary of State. There were the usual Appropriation Acts, and of the remainder among the most worthy of note would appear "An "Ordinance to create a further Duty of Customs," "The Courts "Merger Ordinance," "The County Courts Amendment Ordinance," "The Land Registry Ordinance," and "The Land Ordinance." The Customs Amendment Ordinance was introduced by the Governmetnt for a specific purpose, viz. for the support of the interior telegraphic communication on the mainland, and confers on the Collector of Customs the power of collecting an additional tax of 50 cents a gallon on spirits.

The Courts Merger Ordinance was introduced by the Government on the resignation of the late Chief Justice of Vancouver Island, and provides for the merging of the Supreme Court of the mainland and of the Supreme Court of Vancouver Island, into the Supreme Court of British Columbia, and for the appointment of a Registrar and Deputy-Registrar.

The County Courts Amendment Ordinance provides for removing claims over 10*l.* to Superior Courts, and gives powers of County Court Judges to Judges of Superior Courts.

The Land Registry Ordinance provides for the registration of titles to land throughout the Colony, protection of trust estates, and transfer of registered estates.

The Land Ordinance relates to the disposal and regulation of the Crown Lands of the Colony, and repeals certain former Acts relative to the same. This was an important Act, and was much needed, in

order to put an end to the long-continued conflict of regulations which had heretofore existed respecting the mode of purchasing and otherwise acquiring land in the Colony direct from the Crown.

Education.

The public schools of the Colony are established and conducted under the provisions of the Common School Ordinances of 1869 and 1870, by which, on a petition to the Governor in Council, from two-thirds of the residents in any district, an appropriation of $480 is made out of the moneys voted by the Legislature for educational purposes towards the salary of a teacher. Special grants are also made towards the erection, or renting, and furnishing of school premises. As a general rule one half of the expenses are defrayed out of the public revenue, the other half being raised by local exertions.

Power is given to the residents to meet the sums required, either by levying a poll tax of $2 per annum, or by tuition fees of $2 per month, or by voluntary subscription.

The principle of the system is the affording of help by the Government to those who are willing to help themselves. It rests with the people themselves to take advantage, or not, of the provisions of the school law; and although the Act has been in operation only two years, there is now (1871) hardly a settlement in the Colony without its school.

As regards religious teaching the schools are strictly non-sectarian, or rather non-denominational. The Christian religion is acknowledged as the foundation of the system, and general rules and regulations have been drawn up, wherein it is recommended that each school be opened and closed with prayer, a form of which is provided. The Lord's Prayer and Ten Commandments are also to be repeated at least once a week, but the attendance at these religious exercises is entirely voluntary. The so-called "Religious difficulty" has not yet made its appearance, nor is it likely to do so, except upon a change of the system.

The amount voted for educational purposes for the year 1870 was $10,000. The number of schools in operation during the year 1870 was 16; the number of children on the register was 510.

The text-books recommended to be used are those of the Canadian school series.

The schools are under the supervision of an Inspector-General, assisted by a local inspector, the duties being performed by officers of the Government without remuneration.

The system is very well adapted to the requirements of a small Colony, but it is expected that it will be shortly remodelled, and brought more into accord with the Upper Canadian system of education.

Savings Bank.

The savings bank established in June, 1869, is in a prosperous condition. The head office is in Victoria, and branch offices are established at Nanaimo, New Westminster, Yale, and Cariboo.

The offices are under the management of the magistrates, who con-

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

duct the business of the office without remuneration. The rate of interest paid by the Government to the Commissioners is 6 per cent. per annum, and the depositors receive from the Commissioners 5 per cent. The balance of 1 per cent. in favour of the Commissioners provides stationery, &c., and covers the working expenses of the office. At the close of 1870 the Commissioners had invested with the Government $79,000, which, considering the general depression of trade, may be allowed to speak well for the provident habits of the community.

Foreign Consuls.

The United States of America, Sandwich Islands, and North German Confederation, are the only countries represented by Consuls at this port.

Pensions.

The total expenditure on this account was $2,910, $2,425 being paid to Mr. Cameron, retired Chief Justice of Vancouver Island, and $485 to Mrs. Ogilvy, whose husband was killed while in the execution of his duty.

Imports and Exports.

Goods to the value of $1,608,636 were imported in 1870, as against $1,776,622 in 1869, showing a deficiency in 1870 of $167,985. There is but little doubt that trade has declined, but at the same time it must be remembered that a larger amount of home-grown produce is yearly being raised in the Colony, which naturally at first leads to a decrease in the imports.

Exports.

Value of the exports in 1870 was $511,847, while in 1869 it was $719,203, showing a falling off in 1870 of $207,356.

Mining.

The amount of gold exported for 1870 by the banks is as follows:—

	$
Bank of British North America - -	330,120
Bank of British Columbia - - -	423,482
Wells, Fargo, and Co. - - -	264,168
Total - - - - - -	$1,027,770

In addition to this, a large amount is always exported by private hands, a correct estimate of which it is difficult to obtain. "Germansen Creek," in the Omineca district, which was only discovered in 1869, is likely to prove a rich gold field. A considerable "rush" has already taken place there. The late reports are of a most favourable character, and a magistrate has now been sent to the district to report officially on the prospects of this new mining region.

The Cariboo mines are still being steadily worked with fair results, and many of the old creeks that have been latterly diminishing in importance, have been re-worked and found still to yield good pay.

In the Sillooet, Clinton, and Yale District there are a great many Chinese miners, who work with rockers, and are satisfied with the small pay they find in return for their labour.

The Nanaimo coal mines are still progressing favourably, and have been advantageously worked during the past year. The yield of coal for exportation has been about 30,000 tons. The price of coal at the pit's mouth is $6 per ton.

Police and Gaols.

No alteration has taken place in the state of the prisons at Victoria and New Westminster, except it be that a temporary lunatic asylum for females has been fitted up in the Victoria prison, under the charge of a female keeper, and made as comfortable as circumstances would permit. The health of the inmates has been generally good. Syphilis and pulmonary consumption appear to be most prevalent, and the latter disease generally seems to mark for its victims Indians who are sentenced to remain for a long period in prison.

The gaol is under the supervision of the Police Magistrate, but is a badly-constructed building, and small for the number of prisoners. There is no sick ward, and one of the cells is obliged to be utilized for that purpose.

Population.

The population as taken from the magisterial returns is 10,165, exclusive of natives, viz. 5,945 males and 2,872 females, and 1,548 Chinese. The native population may be roughly estimated at from 40,000 to 50,000. The white and coloured population show an increase of about 00·84 per cent. The native population (as is usually the case with the march of civilization) is decidedly on the decrease.

In concluding these remarks, I would draw attention to our fisheries, about the value of which a great deal has often been said, and very little been done. The salmon which abounds in the Fraser River and on our coasts is second in quality to none, and it is surprising that ere this it has not been more exported. Now, however, an enterprising firm has established a business on the Fraser River, and has entered into an arrangement with a house in London for supplying them with Fraser River salmon in tins.

The Oolachan, smelt, herring, rock cod, and various other kinds of fish abound; also crabs, prawns, oysters, and several other kinds of shell-fish.

I have no further remarks to make for your Excellency's information.

The probable future of British Columbia is full of promise. Capital and population will follow on Confederation with the Dominion of Canada, and tend to develop the resources of the country. The railway which will now certainly be built through British territory, uniting

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

the Atlantic with the Pacific, will be a grand step in the career of steady progress, by which Her Majesty's dominions in North America will ultimately be peopled by one unbroken chain, with a loyal and industrious population.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PHILLIP J. HANKIN,
Colonial Secretary.

AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 6.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir ARTHUR E. KENNEDY, C.B., K.C.M.G., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 170.)

MY LORD, Government House, October 14, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the duplicate of the Blue Book for 1870, the original of which was forwarded in a Despatch from the Colonial Secretary, No. 4, dated 23rd April, 1871.

Taxes and Duties, &c.

There has not been any alteration during the year.

Revenue and Expenditure

Does not call for any remark beyond those contained in the comparative statement at pages 54–5.

Public Debt

Consists of a number of small sums held in deposit.

Military Expenditure.

A considerable decrease has been effected.

Public Works.

No work of any magnitude has been undertaken, in consequence of the amount necessary for repairs and alterations.

The total amount expended was 4,396*l.*

Legislation.

But little has been done under this head, owing to the absence of a Queen's Advocate.

Councils and Assemblies.

All the vacancies which have occurred in the Legislative Assembly have been filled up by native merchants, who have acquitted themselves most creditably. Many have assisted me on various occasions in special or extraordinary Executive Councils.

Civil Establishment.

There is nothing under this head calling for special remark.

Education.

The subject of education has received the careful attention of the Legislative Council and the Executive; liberal provision has been made. Education generally has made marked progress during the year.

Imports and Exports

Continue to show a state of prosperity.

Gaols and Prisoners.

Notwithstanding several failures in obtaining an efficient gaoler, there has been great improvement in the management and discipline in the gaol. There has been a marked decrease in the number of prisoners and convictions for petty crimes, since the treadwheel and shot-drill have been more liberally used.

Much still remains to be done, but there is nothing substantially to be complained of.

Hospitals.

The Colonial Hospital is most carefully and creditably conducted, affording an immense amount of relief in sickness and disease.

General Remarks.

The progress of commerce and civilization goes on steadily and surely. The people are loyal, and obedient to the laws.

Peace and good feeling toward the British Government pervades the surrounding populations, and with a better prospect of being maintained than during any former period of West African history.

I have in the administration of my office received efficient aid from the public officers and cordial support from all classes of the community.

I have &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY, Governor-in-Chief.

GAMBIA.

No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT to Sir ARTHUR E. KENNEDY, C.B.

(No. 70.)

SIR, Government House, May 23, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1870, with the following Report.

Fees.

The system of paying some of the public officers partly by fees is still in force, but it would be far preferable to give a fixed salary and cause the fees to be paid into the Colonial Treasury, especially in the case of the Clerk of the Courts.

GAMBIA.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The sources of revenue are the same as for the last four years.

The trade in hides, once considerable, has greatly diminished, owing to cattle disease which prevailed a few years ago.

The amount of wax exported is less by half the quantity.

The importation of cash (on which there is no duty) instead of goods for the part purchase of ground nuts by some of the merchants is detrimental to the revenue.

The ground-nut crop for this year has been far better than that of 1869, and may be considered a fair average; there has been a large increase in the value exported by 38,000*l.*

The quantity of raw cotton exported has also been trebled.

The revenue does not include the Parliamentary grant of 1,000*l.*, which ceases after this year.

The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure for these Settlements, as furnished by the Treasurer:—

REVENUE.

	£	s.	d.
Customs	15,431	7	5
Licences	940	0	0
Rents, exclusive of Land	576	0	4
Land Revenue	250	19	6
Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court	132	12	7
Miscellaneous Receipts	194	15	10
Reimbursements in aid	45	11	2
Sale of Government Property	79	6	3
Auction Duty	46	1	8
Postage	53	17	10
Advances to Heads of Departments	1,675	16	7
Deposit Account	254	0	0
Local Improvements	325	14	0
	20,006	3	2
Balance in Colonial Chest, Jan. 1, 1870	1,065	15	9
Total	£21,071	18	11

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
Establishments:—			
Salaries Fixed	9,121	18	10
„ Provisional	216	8	6
Allowances	470	16	10
Office Contingencies	119	1	11
Pensions, Retired Allowances, &c.	323	19	5
Revenue Services (exclusive of Establishments)	208	17	9
Administration of Justice (exclusive of Establishments)	207	9	6
Charitable Allowances	150	19	0
Education (exclusive of Establishments)	347	12	7
Hospitals (exclusive of Establishments)	458	17	3
Police and Gaols (exclusive of Establishments)	697	5	1
Rent	152	12	9
Transport	209	5	1
Conveyance of Mails	916	13	4
Works and Buildings	2,059	7	1
Roads, Streets, and Bridges	540	1	3
Miscellaneous Services	233	17	9
Aborigines	665	7	5
Drawbacks and refund of Duties	100	18	8
Special Services	181	7	7
Remittances to Crown Agents	2,000	0	0
Advances to Heads of Departments	1,143	10	0
Deposit Account	105	7	6
Local Improvement	107	11	7
	20,739	6	8
Balance in Colonial Chest, Dec. 31, 1870	332	12	3
Total	£21,071	18	11

An increase of expenditure was partly caused by the payments for the last quarter of the year 1870 having been made on 31st December, instead of being carried on, as hitherto, and paid out of the next year's revenue, so that 1870 was charged with five quarters' payments. This was done in order that, if for the future this system is carried on, the exact expenditure can be ascertained for each year independent of the preceding one.

Military Expenditure.

The troops having been withdrawn in the month of May, 1870, there exist no means of ascertaining the expenditure to that date.

Public Works.

The repairs to Government House were completed and it was refurnished; the other public buildings were attended to. Public latrines were constructed, the sea embankment at Halfdie repaired. New lamps and posts were placed in Buckle Street and at the corners of McCarthy's Square.

A gang of convicts, during the intervals of treadwheel or shot-drill, were daily put to work on the public roads.

A new chain was supplied to haul the ferry boat over the Oyster Creek.

Legislature.

The usual Supply Ordinance was enacted, also an Ordinance amending an Ordinance relative to moiety of fines being paid to constables; one extending the jurisdiction of the Court of Requests from 10*l.* to 50*l.*; another granting an allowance to troops in lieu of remission of Customs duties on goods imported for the garrison mess; also one to amend an Ordinance relating to promissory oaths; the Appropriation Ordinance for the service of the year 1871; also an Ordinance to provide a pension for Richard Pine, late Queen's Advocate; also an Act of Indemnity for acts done by Colonel Anton as Acting Administrator during the period he acted before receipt of commission; a supplemental Supply Ordinance; and one to provide a pension for John Campbell, gaoler.

Population.

As a census was taken on 1st of April, 1871, before the Blue Book was completed, the population has been inserted according to the number then inserted, it consists:—

	Whites.		Coloured and Black.		Total.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
St. Mary's, Bathurst	35	7	2,085	2,452	2,120	2,459
Combo	—	—	2,319	2,100	2,319	2,100
Barra or Ceded Mile	1	—	2,200	1,716	2,201	1,716
M'Carthy's Island	2	—	645	616	647	616
Total	38	7	7,249	6,884	7,287	6,891

Total for the whole Settlements, 14,198.

GAMBIA.

Ecclesiastical.

There are three places for Divine worship at Bathurst.

1st. The Established Church.

2nd. The Roman Catholic Mission, self-supporting, with occasional aid from the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in France.

3rd. Wesleyan Mission, supported by Wesleyan Society in England. The latter has the best attendance, then the Roman Catholic, last the Established Church; but since the arrival of the Rev. G. Nicol, Colonial Chaplain, a great improvement has taken place, owing to his zeal and energy; this gentleman is also exerting himself to impart religious instructions to the Sërërës.

The Ladies of Charity exercise a very beneficial influence in the community in taking care of and teaching female children, and are always ready to attend a sick bed—services invaluable in this climate, where restoration to health depends, in convalescence, so much on good nursing.

The Wesleyans have also chapels at Newcastle and Hamilton Town, which are visited every other Sunday by the Superintendent, and a chapel at M'Carthy's Island, with a minister.

Education.

Every encouragement is given to parents to send their children to the schools, of which there are several, male and female, at Bathurst for each denomination. I personally attended the public examinations of each, and was much pleased with the pains taken by the masters and superintendents to instruct the children.

The Episcopalian boys' school is conducted by a schoolmaster trained by the Church Missionary Society in England; he receives a salary of 60*l.* a year. The girls' school is superintended by the daughter of the Colonial Chaplain. The average daily attendance of boys is 58, of girls 22.

The Roman Catholic boys' school is conducted by two masters, trained lay brothers, under superintendence of the priest. The girls' school is under the care of the Sisters of Charity. The average daily attendance of boys is 63, of girls 43.

The Wesleyan boys' school in Dobson Street is taught by a master trained by the Wesleyan Missionary Society at Sierra Leone, his wife instructs the girls; the whole is under the superintendence of the Wesleyan minister. The average daily attendance of boys is 62, of girls 64.

The Wesleyans have also schools at—

Barra - - -	average attendance of	boys	13,	girls	13.
Bakkow Konko -	„	„	25,	„	16.
Cape St. Mary's -	„	„	15,	„	18.
M'Carthy's Island -	„	„	32,	„	17.

These schools are under the superintendence of the Wesleyan minister, and are conducted by trained teachers, but of no standard of qualification. The school records of the Wesleyan Mission were found, on an unexpected visit of examination by me, to be kept in the most accurate manner.

There are no schools (day) beyond the above in the Settlement.

The Established Church and Wesleyans have also Sunday Schools, which are well attended.

Each denomination is granted 100*l.* by the Legislature in aid of education.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports has been 91,996*l.* 12*s.*, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
From Great Britain - - - - -	45,463	15	1
„ British W. Indies - - - - -	387	9	9
„ Leeward Coast, including S. Leone	13,743	17	9
„ France - - - - - - -	12,962	1	11
„ United States of America - -	4,477	13	0
„ Windward Coast, including Goree and Senegal - - - -	14,961	14	6
	£91,996	12	0

Showing a decrease, as compared with the year 1869, of 3,030*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.* The amount of imports in 1869 was 94,027*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*

Exports.

The value of the exports has been 142,517*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Produce and manufacture of the Colony -	134,314	0	10
British, foreign, and other colonial produce and manufacture - - - - -	8,203	15	1
	£142,517	15	11

Showing an increase, as compared with the year 1869, of 33,205*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* The amount in 1869 was 109,312*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*

This is owing to a larger ground-nut crop this year.

Shipping.

There has not been much variation in the number of vessels arriving and clearing from Bathurst.

A slight increase has taken place.

Agriculture.

The cultivation of ground nuts is rapidly extending—koos, rice, guinea corn, cassada, are grown during the rains for native consumption; cotton and indigo are also produced.

The fanatical religious war between Marabôuts and Soninkees, a war *à l'outrance*, renewed every year, is a great drawback and hindrance to trade and agriculture.

To save land carriage, the farmers come from the interior to the river board and cultivate the soil. This is the time chosen for raids on each other, and often our traders, who are there to purchase the ground nuts, are plundered.

Manufactures.

Native looms exist for weaving country cloths. There is a small steam factory for cleaning cotton, shelling ground nuts, and making oil. Soda water and lemonade are also made, but owing to the bad quality of the water, not very successfully.

The natives are very skilful as goldsmiths.

The natives chiefly live upon rice, koos, and fish; the fishermen go out daily in small canoes and supply the market.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The gaol is well ventilated, and contains three classes of buildings.—1st. Lower flat for the prisoners' cells, upper story for the debtors and quarters for the gaoler. 2nd. The female ward (separate), with one day-room and quarters for the matron. 3rd. An infirmary, with eight beds, the patients being placed in the upper story thereof.

Airing yards are attached to the two former buildings.

There is a shed for personal ablutions, and water is plentifully supplied by a well in the yard.

The Colonial Surgeon visits the gaol daily, the Administrator and one or more Justices weekly. The prisoners' rations consist of one pound of rice, half pound of beef made into soup, half pound of bread, salt, and they receive coffee and sugar before going to work in the morning. They are well clothed; in the dry weather they are supplied with a suit of white duck, in the rainy season with one suit of blue serge; red caps. A certain class prefer being in gaol, where they are better fed, clothed, and attended to than they are when at large. They commit crime on purpose to be sent to gaol. The only punishment they dislike or dread is the treadwheel, of which they have only half an hour a day; but to avoid that some of them, whilst the wheel is going round, will hang by their hands from the top rail, not moving their legs and feet, which are frequently bruised, and then they are admitted to hospital for a few days.

Shot-drill is also of half an hour's duration daily; this they also dislike.

But generally speaking, taking into consideration the whole population, the inhabitants are well behaved and orderly; petty theft and larceny are the principal crimes. The daily average number of prisoners during the year is about 41.

Hospital.

There is a very good hospital. A large two-storied building, well kept, and ventilated: the lower story is distributed into kitchen, surgery, dispensary, and stores, a ward for third-class patients, and a ward for females (seldom used).

The upper story is divided into quarters for the dispenser, a first-class or captains' ward, and a second-class or European sailors' ward. There are two enclosed lavatories in the upper ward and one below provided with galvanized baths. There are surface drains to carry off the water in the rainy season. The latrines are kept in good

order, and emptied daily; they adjoin the hospital, which is surrounded by a wall enclosing a large airing ground.

There is also a large and commodious bungalow for the reception of pauper patients. The hospital is frequently visited by the Administrator and the clergymen of the several denominations, and by the Colonial Surgeon twice a day (or oftener if required).

There is no lunatic asylum.

In concluding this report, your Excellency will no doubt bear in mind that I only administered the Government of the Settlement during the last five months of 1870.

I may mention that I paid a visit to the Upper River, proceeding 300 miles from Bathurst, and 100 beyond M'Carthy's Island, in H.M.S. 'Growler,' under command of Captain Verney, in January, 1871, the coolest season of the year. I found all the native chiefs and kings friendly disposed towards the British. A brisk trade in ground nuts was going on, and promised a large crop for 1871.

I have carefully watched over the funds of the Colony, and lost no opportunity of reducing expenditure, and put in force the greatest economy wherever practicable, and I have no doubt at the end of 1871 a sensible increase will be perceptible in the balance in the Colonial Treasury chest.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY ANTON,
Acting Administrator.

Sir Arthur E. Kennedy, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

GOLD COAST.

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Acting Administrator SALMON to Governor Sir ARTHUR E. KENNEDY, C.B.

(No. 114.) Government House, Cape Coast,
SIR, October 19, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency my report on the Blue Book for the year 1870.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. S. SALMON,
Acting Administrator.

Sir Arthur E. Kennedy, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

Taxes, Duties, and other sources of Revenue.

There have been no changes made under the head of Duties since the Convention with Holland. The introduction of the money-order system between Cape Coast and the United Kingdom will cause a small increase in Post-office revenue. No additional taxes have been imposed.

Fees.

All fees receivable by officers have been abolished, except certain fees of Customs to be regulated by an Ordinance under consideration.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The increase of revenue this year has been very marked, due to the large importation of American spirits, which, next to cotton goods, is the principal article of barter, and better supervision in the Customs department. The expenditure on the whole was less than was estimated for.

Comparative Yearly Statements of Revenue and Expenditure.

The increase in "Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court" is due to a certain extent to increased judicial business, but principally to fines paid by certain chiefs and towns. In "Fixed Salaries" and "Rent" the increase is due to augmentation of salaries and new offices created.

Military Expenditure.

The military expenditure of the Settlement has been decreased by about 17 per cent. under last year.

Public Works.

The Colonial Surveyor was appointed in July. The works in progress were continued, and Abyssinian wells sunk at Cape Coast. On account of the nature of the surface rock, the latter did not succeed so well as was anticipated, but have been of service to the natives. The thoroughfares of Cape Coast and the Accra towns were considerably improved during the year; also the market roads to Cape Coast.

Legislation.

Of the Ordinances passed in the year 1870, the only one calling for special remark is the Ordinance No. 3, which provides that the officers and men of Her Majesty's Land Forces serving on the Gold Coast shall receive a stipulated allowance in lieu of remission of Customs duties. The sum of sixpence a day for each officer, and sixpence a month for each non-commissioned officer and private, comes to rather more in the year than the amount of duties received from that quarter.

Civil Establishment.

Several additions to the civil establishment have taken place this year,—the appointment of Mr. Mercer as Colonial Surveyor, of Mr. E. R. Cole as Postmaster, Cape Coast, of Mr. J. T. Brownell as Inspector of Customs at out-stations. The principal changes were the appointment of Mr. C. S. Salmon as Collector of Customs, vice Mr. Simpson; and of Colonel Foster of Inspector of Police and Assistant Magistrate, vice H. Kneller, Esq.

Officers who have given Security for the Discharge of their Duties.

All officers in the Settlement holding positions of financial trust have given security for an estimated amount, according to the nature and responsibility of the office.

Recapitulation of the Establishments.

The amount, 35,609*l.* 10*s.* 4¼*d.*, includes special payments (principally transfer of Colonial money from one chest or department to another), and remittances to Crown Agents, amounting to 16,857*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*, the balance being the actual money paid away.

Population.

There are no means of obtaining any exact information with respect to the numbers of the people. The increase in cultivation as a means of obtaining the necessaries of life has been considerable, and would lead to the supposition that the population also is increasing. There have been no scarcities, epidemics, or other disturbing influence to hinder the natural augmentation.

Ecclesiastical Return.

Under this head there are no alterations to report.

Education.

There has been a small increase during the latter portion of the year in the attendance at the Government boys' school, Cape Coast.

Mrs. Moseley's Female Christian Institution ceased to be carried on after the unfortunate and untimely death of that lady.

There is a general desire, among the trading portion of the community, for a higher class of education for boys, in order to fit them for commercial pursuits and the Government service.

Coins, Exchanges, &c.

There is a change to be noted respecting coins. American (U.S.) gold has nearly gone out of circulation, and American (U.S.) silver is rare, due to its withdrawal to the United States, American vessels receiving it in payment in preference.

The silver dollar of the United States still passes among the people for 4*s.* 6*d.*, but others at only 4*s.*; the five-dollar Spanish gold piece, of which a considerable number are in circulation, passes for 20*s.* 6*d.* only. Cowries are gone out of circulation in the Cape Coast district.

The people refuse defaced or worn silver, and dislike half-crowns.

There is no French coin in circulation, and very little Dutch, notwithstanding the proximity of the latter settlements.

Imports and Exports.

The imports show an increase of 40,000*l.* over last year, being about 20 per cent.; there is a decrease of nearly ⅛th, or 22,446*l.*

on the imports from the United Kingdom; an increase of about 150 per cent., or 51,755*l.* in the imports from the United States, and the item of 10,467*l.* from Germany is also an increase, no imports from that country having figured in the last year's returns. There is no doubt that the imports last year were in excess of previous years; but a portion of the increase figured forth is due to greater care and supervision in making the returns. The distribution of last year's returns of imports showing none from Germany is incorrect, as undoubtedly a large quantity of goods were shipped from Hamburg and North Germany to German houses in the Settlement.

The exports show an increase over last year of 96,326*l.*, or about 35 per cent.; of this the United States takes 36,190*l.*, the Leeward and Windward Ports 26,177*l.* (for ultimate shipment, generally to Great Britain); Holland 20,758*l.*, Germany 3,899*l.*, and France, which did not figure in last year's returns, 21,008*l.* There is a diminution in the exports to the United Kingdom direct of 11,707*l.*

It is difficult to obtain an accurate return of the quantity of gold dust exported; a great deal depends upon the good faith and willingness of the supercargoes of vessels, and they are afraid to let the Custom House clerks and the sub-collectors at the out-stations know more of their transactions than they can help, as those officers are not always to be depended upon for secrecy.

Shipping.

Under this head it is necessary to remark that there is a great apparent falling off in the number of vessels and their tonnage that entered and cleared from the Settlement; this is due to the fact that the same vessel was reported more than once while passing up and down the coast.

Agriculture, Wages, &c.

There is a sensible increase in the amount of land under cultivation for farm and garden produce, and a large number of palm trees (for obtaining palm oil) have been planted in the Crobo country, adjacent to the river Volta.

The rate of wages has increased lately, although the means of living are more abundant. This is due to the greater desire of the natives for clothing, also to the natural results that follow any extension of trade and the opening up of fields for independent labour.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The rules for the prisons of the Settlement were printed in 1870. Shot-drill was introduced, and discipline more strictly enforced.

The number of prisoners committed for various crimes and offences show a large increase over last year. This is due to the return of a number of bad and lawless characters who were in the bush during the disturbances, fighting and panyarring. It is due also, to a certain extent, to the greater power of the law over districts removed beyond the immediate limits of the towns of Cape Coast and Accra.

Health.

The health of the towns on the Coast for 1870 was apparently the average. There is a movement manifesting itself slightly at Cape Coast against the system of burying in the dwelling-house. This is due to an uneasy feeling among the better-informed natives that an epidemic, such as the cholera at the Gambia, might possibly fall upon them unprepared, and the natural consequences of the dwellings being over the numerous graves of the family for generations would declare themselves.

General Remarks.

The general prospect of the Settlement improved during the year. The nearer approach to permanent peace, and the fact of inhabitants settling down to their ordinary pursuits more steadily, gave a great impetus to trade. The flow of produce to the Coast was unimpeded by disturbing influences except in the Volta districts.

The balance in hand at the end of the year did not come up to the amount expected, due to unforeseen expenses connected with aborigines and the Volta expedition. The amount so expended, however, will be strictly remunerative by an increase of confidence and trade.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) C. S. SALMON,

Acting Administrator.

Sir Arthur E. Kennedy, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Acting Administrator SALMON to The ADMINISTRATOR IN CHIEF.

(No. 21.)

SIR, Government House, Cape Coast, February 9, 1872.

IN reply to a Despatch, No. 124, received from Sir Arthur Kennedy, I have the honour to forward the accompanying extra Report on the Blue Book for the year 1870.

2. I have endeavoured, as much as possible, to obtain the information required by the Secretary of State; I have, however, to remark to your Excellency that I am unable to enter into the details of the imports, because I have reason to believe the returns previous to 1870 were not made out in a manner that would make the figures reliable. There are no records in the offices to show how the figures had been arrived at. The imports for 1870 are recorded in the same manner as they are at Sierra Leone, for the western district; in the eastern districts the returns were only partially kept for that year, as the books were not obtained before six months of it had elapsed.

3. I trust that your Excellency will not deem that the unsatisfactory nature of my Report was due to carelessness. I, being a new man at the work, took previous Reports for sample, overlooking the fact that the unusual increase in American trade for that year, and the other matters referred to by Earl Kimberley, required to be specially accounted for.

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4. In making out the extra Report, I have discovered some errors in figures in page 137 of the Blue Book for 1870, where the total exports to the United Kingdom should be 200,378*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*, instead of 191,763*l.* 12*s.*; and in page 131 of the Blue Book for 1869 the total exports to the United Kingdom should be 204,164*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*, instead of 203,470*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* These errors will make the exports to the United Kingdom for the year 1870 to be 3,785*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* less than those of 1869, instead of 11,706*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*, a difference of 7,921*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* The general figures in the Blue Books are correct as regards the quantity and value assigned to each separate article exported, the error was in the addition of these quantities by the clerk.

5. The Tables accompanying the Report are correct, as far as I have means of ascertaining.

I have, &c.,

The Administrator in Chief, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) C. S. SALMON,
Acting Administrator.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1870.

Imports and Exports.

The year 1870 was an exceptional year for American trade, in consequence of which the regular course of exports was thrown out. One of the most extensive articles of barter imported into these Settlements is American rum, the import of which article in 1869 amounted to 207,176 gallons, and in 1870 to 664,219 gallons, of which latter quantity 398,531 gallons was landed in the western district, between and including Cape Coast and Winnebah, and 265,688 gallons in the eastern districts, between and including Accra and Addah. The difference in favour of the year 1870 is 454,043 gallons which at 3*s.* a gallon, the average selling price, gives 68,106*l.* 9*s.* as the amount which would have to be returned in produce or specie to the American. Another cause of the increase in the total of exports to the United States in 1870 over 1869, was the extra value of palm oil, consequent upon the competition for it; this increase, computed at 3*d.* a gallon for the quantity of palm oil exported in 1869, gives 5,929*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, which, had the price in 1869 been the same as in 1870, would have increased the value of the exports of the former year by that amount.

I have made inquiries of the American traders here, and I have ascertained that much gold dust is not exported *to* the United States. Previous to 1870 they obtained little or none, but in that year, owing to the large quantity of rum landed, the purchasers not having sufficient palm oil or other produce on hand to pay for it in the usual manner, gave gold dust instead, which article is generally reserved for the purchase of English goods. The Americans, however,

ultimately purchased palm oil for the greater portion of this gold dust, thereby lessening the amount of direct exports to the United States by the value of the quantity so purchased; I consider that 12,000*l.* would be a fair estimate to put down under this head. It is always difficult to trace dealings with gold dust, especially at the outports, for it passes in this Settlement in precisely the same way as coin does in England. The Americans, in making purchases of palm oil with the gold dust, would deal with the latter as coin, and it would not be recorded among the imports. They have frequently been requested by circulars to give returns of all gold dust received by them, which returns were embodied in the exports.

The Americans that trade upon this coast, even those whose cargoes are consigned to houses at Cape Coast, do not confine their transactions to the British settlements, but frequent the coast beween the Kroo Coast and Whydah, sometimes, in passing up and down, calling at the same ports two or three times; they not unfrequently transship oil and other produce into the steamers for Liverpool, to be sold there, because the value of their outward cargo often exceeds the capacity of the vessel to receive the like value in produce. Under these conditions the ultimate final shipment to the United States by the vessel herself is almost impossible to arrive at.

As a consequence of the overtrading of the American Houses in 1870, the shippers lost money, and for a considerable time during the year 1871 no shipments arrived from that quarter. The houses did not recommence trade until they arrived at some mutual understanding.

The quantity of American rum imported into these Settlements for the past year was about 200,000 gallons less than in 1870, the total value of the imports for the two years being nearly the same. The quantity of palm oil exported to the United States for the past year was 226,243 gallons less than for the year 1870, although the total quantity of that article exported from these Settlements was in excess for the same period by 137,696 gallons.

Respecting the returns showing the trade of these Settlements with Holland, France and Germany, I cannot but consider there was some error in those of 1869, which caused a misplacement of figures, assigning to other countries the goods imported from and the produce exported to the above countries.

In the Blue Book for 1869 the imports from Holland are placed at 151*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, and the exports at 251*l.* 13*s*, which may have been correct, but the French and German houses at Accra and Addah imported no goods from their respective countries, although six vessels of the former country and four vessels of the latter country entered, and seven vessels of the former and four of the latter cleared with cargoes.

If the returns for 1869 are reliable, Germany took 25,006*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* of produce, and the French houses exported none to France, therefore, although six French vessels entered and seven cleared, no goods were landed from or produce exported to France. The exports to Germany for 1870 (amounting to 28,905*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*) exceeded the total for the previous year (amounting to 25,006*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*) by 3,898*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*; the imports for 1870 amounted to 10,467*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*,

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none having figured the previous year. The exports to France during the year 1870 amounted to 21,008*l.* 18*s.*, and the imports were nil. For the year 1869 there were neither imports from nor exports to France. In the year 1870 two German vessels and one French vessel entered and cleared, but some of the English vessels, I believe, loaded in German ports, and some of the Dutch vessels in French ports.

The imports from Holland for 1870 (amounting to 282*l.*) exceed those of 1869 (amounting to 151*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*) by 110*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* The exports to Holland for 1870 (amounting to 21,009*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*) exceed those of 1869 (amounting to 251*l.* 13*s.*) by 20,758*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* The reason why the exports to Holland for the year 1870 exceed the imports so much is due to the fact that the produce (principally palm oil) was purchased with gold dust, instead of being obtained in barter; the neighbouring Dutch settlements having less palm oil and similar produce in proportion to gold dust, compared with the English settlements. The Americans houses overtraded in the Dutch settlements during the year 1870, the same as in these Settlements.

The exports to Windward for 1870 (amounting to 10,241*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*) exceed those of 1869 (amounting to 3,002*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*) by 7,238*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, and the exports to the Leeward coast for the year 1870 (amounting to 19,515*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*) exceed those of 1869 (amounting to 577*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*) by 18,937*l.* 18*s.* These exports are nearly all in merchandise; the quantity and value of the produce exported to the Windward and Leeward coasts being inappreciable. The increase in the exports to these places for the year 1870 was entirely due to an extended trade. I have the honour to enclose to your Excellency two Tables of returns for the years 1869 and 1870 of exports to the United Kingdom and to the United States.

The difference in the Table (corrected) between the exports to the United Kingdom for the years 1869 and 1870 is not sufficient in itself to call for special comment, but the reason why none of the increase of trade in 1870 over 1869 accrued to England will be explained by the Report.

In the return of exports to the United States the amounts of 5,929*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, 12,000*l.*, and 68,106*l.* 9*s.*, will be fully explained by the Report, which gives the reasons for these figures, and which also shows the causes of the increase in business with the United States and these Settlements during the year 1870.

The imports for the year 1871 will show an increase over those of 1870, from Holland of 3,644*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, and from France of 813*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, and there will be a decrease in the return of the imports from Germany of 6,711*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*

The return of exports for 1871 will show a decrease with respect to those of 1870 of 15,468*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* for Holland, of 3,536*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* for France, and of 22,159*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* for Germany.

The war between France and Germany influenced the transactions with the northern parts of Europe and these Settlements, and the French houses mostly confined themselves to realizing and shipping. The returns for 1871 with respect to France, Holland, and Germany, taking into account the causes before mentioned, will serve to prove

that the returns for 1869 were probably incorrect in the manner before referred to, and that, therefore, the increase of trade with those countries in 1870 was, to a considerable extent, apparent only.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. S. SALMON,
Acting Administrator.

EXPORTS to UNITED KINGDOM.

	1869. £	s.	d.	1870. £	s.	d.
Cotton goods	199	15	4	1,550	0	0
Raw cotton	135	19	6	335	0	0
Empty bottles	5	6	0	—		
Cola nuts	25	0	0	—		
Cordage	1	12	0	—		
Geneva	180	15	0	—		
Guinea grains	142	8	8	1,514	12	6
Gold dust	132,447	12	0	115,857	0	0
Gum	634	16	0	2,171	16	6
G. nuts	44	2	6	15	12	0
Books and stationery	—			2	10	0
Hides	—			11	11	4
Hardware	—			45	0	0
Ivory	74	4	1	129	6	0
Jewelry	2	12	0	—		
Leather	42	10	6	20	0	0
Medicine	1	10	0	—		
P. kernels	18,816	5	0	7,700	0	0
P. oil	48,077	0	0	69,025	4	3
P. quills	461	13	0	130	7	0
Shea butter	13	0	0	—		
Pepper	—			28	3	0
Skins	—			1,842	14	0
Specie	2,857	12	0	—		
Provisions	0	13	6	—		
	£204,164	7	1	£200,378	16	7

EXPORTS to UNITED STATES.

	1869. £	s.	d.	1870. £	s.	d.
Camwood	66	0	0	—		
Cordage	6	0	0	—		
Guinea grains	0	14	2	1,393	12	0
Gum copal	7	4	0	278	0	0
Ivory	15	12	0	—		
Palm kernels	640	15	0	4,326	0	0
P. oil	47,433	0	0	112,979	1	7
Specimens N. history	799	18	5	—		

GOLD COAST.

	1869. £ s. d.	1870. £ s. d.
Gold dust and specie - - -	—	15,919 4 0
Skins - - - - - - -	—	310 2 0
Glassware - - - - -	—	6 0 0
	48,969 3 7	£135,211 19 7
3*d.* per gallon on 474,330 gallons of P. oil, being the extra value of that article in 1870 over 1869	5,929 2 6	
Estimated amount of G. dust out of the 15,919*l.* 4*s.* exported from certain ports in 1870 that was paid away for P. oil at other places in the Settlement - -	12,000 0 0	
Value of 454,043 gallons of rum at 3*s.* a gallon, being the quantity imported into the Settlement in 1870 over 1869 - -	68,106 9 0	
	£135,004 15 1	

LAGOS.

LAGOS.

No. 9.

No. 9.

(Not received.)

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 10.

No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir H. BARKLY, K.C.B., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 68.)

MY LORD, Government House, Cape Town, June 23, 1871.

Enclosure No. 1.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Annual Blue Book of the Cape of Good Hope for 1870.

As I only arrived at Cape Town on the last day of that year, the Report on the state and prospects of the Colony, with which I am required by the regulations to accompany it, must, in many respects, be meagre and incomplete, but I will make such comments as occur to me under the principal heads specified.

2. I begin with the returns relating to finance and commerce, taking afterwards those connected with the moral and political condition of the inhabitants.

3. Though more prosperous than any in the previous decade, the year would seem not to have opened more auspiciously than those

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

which preceded, since the estimates of revenue and expenditure laid before the Legislature in January showed a probable deficit of no less than 61,343*l.*

4. With a view to reducing this amount, a house tax, calculated to bring in 22,000*l.*, was imposed. No addition was made to the import duties, Ordinance 20 of 1870, noted at the commencement of the tariff, being merely explanatory in respect to the previous rates on certain articles.

5. Fortunately, as the year wore on, good seasons, combined with the impetus given to trade by the success of a large body of diamond seekers, beyond the northern boundary of the Colony, produced such beneficial effects that the revenue proved more than a hundred thousand pounds above what had been anticipated; and, notwithstanding some excess over the estimated expenditure, the expected deficit was thus converted into a surplus of 35,518*l.*

6. The extent of the improvement will be best gathered from the subjoined comparison with the two preceding years:—

	1868.	1869.	1870.
	£	£	£
Revenue -	577,322	580,026	661,392
Expenditure -	668,086	648,732	625,874
	90,764 deficit.	68,706 deficit.	35,518 surplus.

Thus the revenue of 1870 exceeded that of 1868 by 84,070*l.*, whilst the expenditure was 42,212*l.* less than in that year. How greatly the conversion into a surplus was due to the economy practised is shown by the fact, that even the increased revenue of 1870 would not have sufficed to meet the expenditure of 1868.

7. The figures set down for 1870 are those furnished by the audit for my speech on opening Parliament, and do not precisely tally with those deducible from the Blue Book, which would give a somewhat larger surplus of revenue. It is not easy, indeed, to draw correct conclusions from returns in which money borrowed appears under the head of revenue, whilst loans repaid figure as expenditure, both sides of the account being thereby disproportionately swollen, but by a detailed analysis the results of last year would be shown to stand really more favourably still, for the Sinking Fund investment for 1867, 11,500*l.*, was paid to the Commissioners in 1870, as well as that for the year itself, thus augmenting the disbursements of the latter by 23,000*l.*, no part of which can strictly be classed as expenditure, since it went in reduction of the public debt.

Government Notice, No. 31, 1871.

8. As this sinking fund of 1 per cent., established under Act No. 9 of 1864, has, during the six years of its existence, accumulated to 66,780*l.* (including 21,250*l.*, Colonial Debentures paid off in the Colony, but not yet cancelled), mention of it ought certainly to have been made in the statement as to the public debt.

9. On the other hand, the statement is more favourable than it should be, inasmuch as no allusion is made in it to so-called "temporary loans," to which, during the financial difficulties of the Colony, recourse has been had to a large extent, no less than 145,000*l.* still

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

remaining due to the Guardian Fund managed by the master of the Supreme Court, and 65,000*l.* to the Cape of Good Hope Bank, though, as will be seen from the statement of expenditure, 43,000*l.* was paid off under this head during 1870. 10,000*l.* has likewise subsequently been repaid.

10. The first of these repayments will serve to explain an anomaly presented by the Blue Book returns, which would otherwise be irreconcilable with the occurrence of a surplus revenue, namely, that the general account current shows the balances in the treasury, divisional chests, &c., on 31st December to have been 11,500*l.* less than on the previous 1st January, notwithstanding an actual increase of 24,750*l.* appears in the statement of public debt through the issue of 19,750*l.* more debentures on account of the Table Bay breakwater, and a small excess of 4,800*l.* arising from the conversion into irredeemable stock of 50,000*l.*, which had been raised in 1867 for a short term of years.

11. The actual indebtedness of the Cape Colony with these corrections would be raised from 1,569,907*l.*, as set forth in the statement, to 1,734,378*l.*, irrespective of a guarantee for 43 years of 6 per cent. on 500,000*l.* to the Cape Town and Wellington Railway Company. As the total amount is considerably under four times the average annual income of the Colony, it can hardly be considered excessive compared with the debt of other countries, especially as it has, in several instances, been incurred for works of a highly reproductive character, calculated to enhance the value of the many million acres of Crown land still unsold.

12. With reviving prosperity, indeed, a desire to proceed further with such works as railways by means of borrowed capital has sprung up, and it seems to me that gradually, and with due precautions, at least 1,500,000*l.* may be thus expended in opening up the country between the seaboard and the interior, with much advantage to all concerned.

13. It is, of course, of the utmost importance, when looking in this light at the financial position and prospects of the Colony, to decide how far the recent improvement in these respects is attributable to mere transient causes, and how far it is likely to prove permanent. This improvement has occurred mainly in the Customs and the land revenue; that on the former amounting to 46,331*l.*, or considerably more than half of the entire augmentation.

14. That the augmented importations, which thus swelled the receipts of import duties, are dependent in a great degree upon the continuance of tolerably favourable seasons must be evident, but it is equally clear, in my opinion, that the discovery of diamonds in the territories beyond the Orange River, and consequent influx of population, will give rise for many years to come to increasing demands for dutiable articles, as well as for colonial products, in this latter respect indirectly stimulating consumption within the Colony itself. Nor will this increasing demand be materially affected by the ultimate settlement of questions as to sovereignty or ownership of soil, the Diamond-fields being so situated that, like the adjacent republics, they must inevitably draw their chief supplies of merchandise from this Colony, although Natal will doubtless continue to participate in

respect to lighter and less bulky goods transportable across the lofty ranges of the Drakensberg.

15. The returns of imports and exports show, as will be perceived from the figures given below, viz.:—

	1869.	1870.
	£	£
Value of imports - -	1,953,091	2,352,043
„ exports - - -	2,139,689	2,569,499
Excess of exports - -	£186,589	£217,456

not merely an increase of about 20 per cent. in both, but an almost commensurate advance in the excess of the value of the latter over that of the former; and, though I am aware that such excess is no longer regarded as an infallible criterion of the flourishing state of any country, it proves, at least, that the augmented importations of last year were by no means speculative, consequent on the excitement as to diamond discoveries, but represented the legitimate operations of trade.

16. Whether they exceeded the real requirements of the Diamond-fields is another question: if, as stated in the Table of Exports, the value of all the diamonds exported in 1870 only equalled 153,460*l.*, there can be little doubt that they did so; but it must be borne in mind that this statement includes such precious stones alone as were regularly entered outwards as cargo, hundreds sent by post or carried on their persons by passengers not being declared at the Custom House at all, whilst, even as regards those shipped by the banks and mercantile firms, the values assigned were mere matter of form, no duty being leviable except a small ad valorem wharfage rate at Port Elizabeth, which probably corrected any tendency to over valuation there. It is alleged indeed that, in the early days of the discovery, diamonds were far too highly priced in the Colony, insufficient deduction being made for the enormous depreciation resulting from defects of colour or brilliancy; but, whatever effect this may have had, it assuredly cannot have made up for the innumerable omissions in the Blue Book Table. I am disposed to think, from statements I have seen in English newspapers, that the precious stones exported from the Cape in 1870 fell little short in value of a quarter of a million, and, as this exportation scarcely commenced until the middle of the year, whilst the population of the fields, as well as the area of diamond-producing country opened up, has been increasing ever since, it seems not too high an estimate to assume that this year the value of the exports under this head will be fully double.

17. The effect of this for the time being upon the trade and revenue of the Colony is most satisfactory, and I am sanguine that it will prove to be little less so upon its permanent prosperity, as a large proportion of the more fortunate diggers have but migrated temporarily over the border, either with the intention of returning to their farms and stores annually when the summer heat becomes unendurable on the fields, or, if they have the luck to find a valuable gem, hastening home with the proceeds to invest them in the purchase of fresh

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

acres of land or new bales of merchandise. Of course this is not so sure to be the case with European emigrants, who sometimes, if they succeed, go back in the ship that brought them out; but, as happened at the Australian Gold-fields, gentlemen adventurers are rarely successful, the work as a rule being too hard, whilst those of lower rank are just as likely to settle in the Colony as not. The average earnings, too, of the diggers are so small, and possibly will undergo such further reduction as their number increases, that it may be doubted whether emigration on a very large scale is likely to continue. Calculating the present number at 1,500 only, which is much below the usual estimates, half a million's worth of diamonds would give only 33*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per head per annum.

18. With regard to other articles exported, no very material changes occurred, though the returns indicate satisfactory progress in most respects. The quantity of wool shipped (which includes, it must be borne in mind, the clip of nearly the whole of the Free State also) was about the same as before, viz. 36,000,000 lbs., worth, even at the reduced prices which prevailed on account of the war in Europe, 1,660,000*l.* The exports of wine underwent a further reduction, having now dwindled down to about 1,000 gallons, owing partly to the adverse effect of its classification under the Imperial tariff, but more probably to the inducement which the Diamond-fields held out to distil the juice of the grape into brandy. The number of tons of copper ore rose from 5,390 to 7,300, valued at 146,360*l.*, giving it a very important place in the Table. Gold does not yet figure among the products of the Colony, but I entertain little doubt that it will ere long do so, as the auriferous rocks are developed throughout extensive areas in the Western Province. More valuable, however, in all probability, than the precious metal are two novel but rising exports—angora hair, of which 403,153 lbs., worth 26,673*l.*, were shipped, and cotton, of which only 791 lbs. had been sent home experimentally in 1869, but which in 1870, stands at 48,965 lbs., worth 1,095*l.* But for extraneous circumstances the quantity would have been considerably larger, and this year it will exceed 200 bales. Cotton farming, indeed, may now be considered an established fact, and as there is a vast tract of country at the mouth of the Great Fish River and all along the Kaffraian coast admirably adapted to its cultivation, it may be hoped that this will rapidly be extended.

19. The returns of shipping for 1870 are of especial interest, as it was the first year in which the Suez Canal presented a new route for navigation between Europe and the East. Its effects, as might be expected, are clearly traceable. For ten years before the extent of tonnage entered inwards had varied little, but during the last it declined from a gross total (including vessels coastwise) of 375,767 tons to one of 335,569, showing thus a falling off of 40,000 tons, or somewhat more than 10 per cent. The falling off would probably have been larger but for the briskness of importations for the Diamond-fields, which it may be hoped will continue to have a mitigating influence. On the other hand, it can hardly be supposed that the traffic by canal is yet fairly developed. It is improbable, however, that the Colony will suffer much loss from a few steamers or sailing ships from India or China ceasing to call in Table Bay.

The real shock took place long since, when the overland route was first opened, and Indian officers left off spending their furloughs at Cape Town.

20. The true prosperity of the Colony is dependent on other causes, and notably on the progess of agriculture, if it be allowable to use the word in the wider signification, which a soil and climate so peculiar as those of South Africa demand; for, so far at least as the Western Province is concerned, the agricultural districts may be said to lie within a radius of little more than a hundred miles from Cape Town, and even there, though the valleys are fertile, the country is for the most part hilly and covered with scrub, whilst beyond that distance, up to the Orange River, stretch an endless succession of sheep-walks, treeless and barren looking, yet affording excellent pasturage. This part of the Colony is too badly watered, though much may be done to improve the supply by dams and Abyssinian pumps, ever to be very densely peopled; but it is nevertheless interspersed, at the distance of every forty or fifty miles, where rivers exist, or copious and permanent springs are found, with flourishing townships containing from 500 to 1,000 inhabitants, forming commercial centres for the outlying farmers of the district. In the east the country is better wooded, though often extremely mountainous, and the deltas of various fine rivers furnish a large area of cultivable land. Upon the whole, however, the comparative resources of the two provinces are very evenly balanced.

21. Over both the population is still, as a general rule, thinly scattered, and composed of such mixed elements as to oppose even a greater obstacle to social progress. No attempt is made in the Blue Book to carry up to date the census returns of 1865, save that those for British Kaffraria, then a separate colony, have been included. The aggregate population must have, in the interim, considerably increased; but there seems no reason to believe that the proportions of the different races have much varied. At that date persons of European descent constituted a little under 45 per cent. of the whole in the west, but less than 25 per cent. in the eastern districts, the remainder in both provinces being Kaffirs, Hottentots, and other coloured persons.

22. These proportions give but a feeble idea of the real preponderance in numbers of the natives, who swarm on the other side of the colonial boundaries to such an extent that the 187,439 men, women, and children, of which the white population in the two provinces consists, form an inconsiderable fraction in comparison. As the Kaffirs in the Eastern Province belong to the same tribes and recognize more or less the same chiefs as those beyond the frontier, it is not surprising that much alarm was last year created when the long threatened withdrawal of Her Majesty's troops was all but accomplished. Fortunately, notwithstanding for six months the garrison of the whole province was but the wing of a regiment, everything remained perfectly quiet, and as this small number of troops has been doubled since the commencement of the present year, the same degree of apprehension no longer exists. Indeed the actual state of the native question is generally admitted to be most satisfactory, with the single exception of the increase within the Colony

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

itself of stock stealing or slaughtering cattle, sheep, and goats for the purpose of selling the skins. It is very desirable to devise a remedy for this practice, as it is the sole point which now creates ill-feeling between the white and black races, and I trust that this Session of Parliament will not close without legislation with this object.

23. Crime in other respects is by no means rife nor on the increase, as may be inferred from the returns as to gaols and prisoners, which show that the greatest number in confinement on any one day in the several prisons was only 1,729, whereas in 1869 it had been 2,119, a diminution due probably to the abundant harvest. The information furnished, however, under this head, though most elaborate, is, I find on closer examination, very incomplete, the convict establishments not being included, to which all long-sentenced prisoners are removed with a view to their employment on public works. Next year I trust to rectify this and other omissions, and, with the aid of the new Blue Book forms, to put Her Majesty's Government in possession of full particulars. On this occasion I will only observe that those convict establishments which I have visited, viz. those in connection with the construction of the Table Bay breakwater, and the harbour works at Port Alfred, are all that could be wished; and that some of the gaols, especially in the larger towns, are buildings of an expensive class, though not very well contrived. In two or three instances during my tour I came across gaols that were disgracefully bad, but this was either at recently-established townships or at places where the new buildings had not been commenced at the date when, after a special loan of 200,000*l.* had been spent on country gaols, the Assembly refused to authorize any further expenditure for the purpose. I intend asking for votes in the supplementary estimates of this year to commence the erection of proper gaols in the cases above alluded to.

24. The returns as to hospitals are very full, and in the form required by Earl Granville's Circular Despatch of the 12th July, 1869. With regard to such of the institutions as are situated in the vicinity of Cape Town, I have already made a special report to your Lordship, to which I have little to add. The New Somerset Hospital, as it is called, is a magnificent edifice externally, erected at needlessly heavy cost, but ill adapted internally for the accommodation of any large number of patients. The Old Somerset Hospital, now used rather as an almshouse, is by no means what it ought to be, and I trust that the Legislature will soon decide on completing the asylums for paupers, lunatics, and lepers, on Robben Island, or on the construction of others elsewhere, so as to admit of the antiquated premises in question being vacated, and the site sold for commercial purposes. There are some fine hospitals in the Eastern Province, such as Sir George Grey's Kaffir Hospital at King William's Town, the Public Hospital at Graham's Town, and the Grey Institution at Port Elizabeth.

25. An excellent system of public education was many years ago established at the Cape, and it has been worked under the supervision of able and conscientious superintendents, yet it scarcely seems to have accomplished as much as might have been anticipated, owing no doubt to the want of sufficient pecuniary support. At first sight the statistics given in Dr. Dale's Report for 1870 seem satisfactory,

it being stated that so many as 40,412 children of all classes received instruction in some one of the 438 educational institutions during the year; but this includes all on the rolls, and when the nature of the instruction given is inquired into, it will be found that only 6,630 were educated in schools directly under Government control, the great bulk of them, 29,380, attending denominational schools, and 4,402 those of the Kaffir Missions. In fact, the anomaly is dwelt on by Dr. Dale that, while the children of the coloured and poorer classes in the towns and villages are thus on the whole well cared for, those of well-to-do farmers, especially when scattered in outlying districts, are growing up in the densest ignorance. This is no doubt due in part to the little value set upon education by the parents, and their consequent apathy in regard to supporting schools; but it shows, as Dr. Dale remarks, that an "aggressive element" must be infused into the educational system of the Colony if lamentable results are to be averted. The appointment of one or more Inspectors of Schools would no doubt be a great addition to the machinery at present in operation, for it is simply impossible for the most active superintendent living to visit every district, even triennially.

26. I will not extend this already lengthened Despatch by any special reference to the very copious ecclesiastical returns which are given in the Blue Book. They would certainly seem to show that the grant of 16,760*l.* per annum, distributed among the various churches under Schedule C., is turned to good account, and it may be feared that its withdrawal, which is advocated by a large party in the Assembly, will considerably curtail the means of imparting religious knowledge to large classes of the population. In the towns the voluntary system may no doubt be successfully carried out; but even there the funds now contributed by congregations for the support of missions throughout the country, will probably be absorbed in providing for their own wants.

27. The extracts from the Annual Reports of the Civil Commissioners with which, as usual, the Cape Blue Book concludes, will be found to give a very satisfactory account of the present condition of the various districts, and to display a general confidence that the difficulties and misfortunes of late years have at length been successfully surmounted. It would be idle, of course, to attempt to predict the future destinies of the Colony, but nothing assuredly can be more apparently promising than its prospects at this moment.

With unbounded stores of mineral wealth, and with a range of climate which fits it for the growth of most of the agricultural productions of the tropical as well as temperate zones, the natural resources of South Africa can hardly be surpassed by those of any other portion of the globe. It is subject, no doubt, to severe periodical droughts, but even in this respect its disadvantages have been exaggerated, for the difference of seasons between the north-eastern and south-western districts is so great—the rains in the one falling in summer, in the other in winter—that there is little likelihood of the whole country suffering at the same time.

Another of its drawbacks is the want of population, or rather of skilled labour of the right description, for native labour is comparatively abundant and cheap. The low rate of wages indeed constitutes

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

the main obstacle to European immigration, especially in the Eastern Province; but there is ample room for small capitalists and farmers, by whom the cultivation of cotton and other articles could be spread if proper inducements were held out.

In regard to this and many other questions of importance, I am disposed to think that the peculiar political institutions which prevail, and above all the jealousies thereby promoted among the representatives of rival constituencies in the east and west, have had much to do with retarding the development of the Colony, and I look forward to its making rapid and substantial progress so soon as the reforms now under consideration of the Legislature are carried out, and a responsible central administration, with powers of local self government in the remoter districts, organized.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY BARKLY,
Governor.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.—No. 34, 1871.

Colonial Office, Cape of Good Hope,
February 1, 1871.

His Excellency the Governor has directed the publication, for general information, of the accompanying Account Current, of the Commissioners for administering the Sinking Fund of this Colony, under Act No. 9 of 1864, for the year ending 31st December, 1870, together with a Supplementary Statement, showing the entire working of the fund from the 1st January, 1865, to the 31st December, 1870.

By command of his Excellency the Governor,
R. SOUTHEY, Colonial Secretary.

ACCOUNT CURRENT of the COMMISSIONERS for ADMINISTERING the SINKING FUND of the CAPE of GOOD HOPE, under ACT No. 9 of 1864, for the Year ending 31st DECEMBER, 1870, and STATE of the FUND on that day.

State of the Fund on the 1st January, 1870.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Amount invested to 31st December, 1869 - - - - - -		55,332 18 5
Deduct:—		
Capital repaid in 1868 and 1869 - - - - - - -	578 0 0	
Interest advanced on purchase of securities in 1868 and 1869 -	1,590 19 2	
		2,168 19 2
Capital remaining invested on 1st January, 1870 - - - -		£53,163 10 3

Receipts during 1870.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
January 1:—		
Cash balance from last Account - - -	84 17 5	
Less error in entry 24th October, 1868 - -	0 0 1	
		84 17 4
December 31:—		
One year's interest on debentures		1,275 0 0
Interest on Crown Land Bonds -		1,521 15 3
Capital repaid on ditto - - -		1,796 13 2
Contribution from Colonial Revenue - - - - - -		11,016 10 0
Interest on deposits in savings bank - - - - - -		6 12 0
		£15,701 7 10

Payments during 1870.

	£ s. d.
December 31:—	
Invested in Crown Land Bonds (capital) - - - - - -	10,772 10 11
Amounts advanced for accrued interest to 12th May, 1870 -	233 7 2
Invested in Crown Land Bonds (capital) - - - - - -	1,215 13 1
Amount advanced for accrued interest to 31st December, 1870	56 4 6
Balance awaiting investment -	3,423 12 1
	£15,701 7 10

State of the Fund on the 31st December, 1870.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Securities on Government Debentures	21,250 0 0	
Securities on Crown Land Bonds	42,105 10 2	
		63,355 10 2
Cash deposited in Treasury	3,289 15 9	
Cash deposited in savings bank	154 12 5	
Cash on hand	9 3 11	
		3,423 12 1
Total amount of the fund		£66,779 2 3

(Signed) J. C. DAVIDSON, Chairman.
JOHN CURREY.
GEO. J. NICHOLLS.
JOHN T. EUSTACE.

Cape Town, 28th January, 1871.

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT, showing the entire working of the SINKING FUND from the Year 1865 to the 31st DECEMBER, 1870.

Dr.				*Cr.*			
December 31, 1870:—		£ s. d.		December 31, 1871:—		£ s. d.	
Total amount of Government contributions to date		58,599 0 0		Total amount of Government Debentures to date		21,250 0 0	
Total of interest received on Government Debentures and Crown Land Bonds to date	£ s. d. 10,811 14 0			Total Crown Land Bonds	£ s. d. 44,480 3 4		
Less interest accrued on Government Debentures and Crown Land Bonds taken over from Government	2,631 11 9			Less Crown Land Bonds repaid	2,374 13 2		
		8,180 2 3				42,105 10 2	
				Cash in hand this date		3,423 12 1	
		£66,779 2 3				£66,779 2 3	

(Signed) J. C. DAVIDSON, Chairman
JOHN CURREY
GEO. J. NICHOLLS
JOHN T. EUSTACE
} Commissioners for Administering the Sinking Fund.

28th January, 1871.

NATAL.

NATAL.

No. 11.

No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor KEATE to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 41.)

MY LORD, Government House, Natal, March 8, 1872.

I AM at length enabled to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book for this Colony for the year 1870. The causes of the very serious delay in its completion were explained in a Despatch I addressed to your Lordship in May last, and I may add that the difficulties to be contended with, both as regards the paucity of hands in the Colonial Secretary's Department, owing to the action of the Legislative Council, and the public printing, consequent upon the general movement towards the Diamond-fields, have very materially increased since that date. In order that no further delay may take place in its transmission, I am obliged to confine myself to a very cursory review of its contents.

NATAL.

2. In reviewing the transactions of 1869, I reported that for the first time for several years the revenue of that year had been more than equal to the expenditure. In 1870 the revenue exceeded the expenditure by 9,283*l.* There was no difference in the sources from which the income of these two years was derived, nor were there in 1870 any exceptional demands on the revenue to be met. The income of 1870 surpassed that of 1869 by 11,482*l.*

3. The expenditure of 1870, if compared with that of 1869, deducting arrears paid in 1869 for 1868, would show a slight increase. This is nothing more than a partial return to a standard of expenditure for general purposes which in the years of deficient revenue had been departed from, and the ordinary unavoidable expansion of outlay in a country which is in a progressive state.

4. That the Colony is in a progressive state, the subjoined return of its shipping and trade during the five years ending on the 31st December, 1870, with a subsidiary statement referring to the first six months of 1871, will serve to show.

ACCOUNT of SHIPPING and TRADE, INWARDS and OUTWARDS, from 1866 to 1870 inclusive, and for the first Six Months of 1871.

Year.	Shipping Inwards. Annual Tonnage.	Value of Imports.	Customs' Revenue.	Shipping Outwards. Tonnage.	Value of Exports.
	£	£	£	£	£
1866 - - - -	26,142	263,305	29,505	25,627	203,402
1867 - - - -	26,625	269,580	35,801	26,288	225,671
1868 - - - -	26,872	317,432	30,475	24,507	271,949
1869 - - - -	26,022	380,331	39,702	25,041	363,262
1870 - - - -	23,881	429,527	45,571	24,005	382,979
First six months of 1871 - - - -	12,892	237,568	24,252	13,730	284,282

5. But it has become a question of considerable interest, and one in the reply to which the Colony is very deeply concerned, what is to be the effect upon its fortunes, for good or for evil, of the discovery of the Diamond-fields on the Vaal River? This discovery has drawn a numerous population to a tract of country which in itself offers no inducement either of soil or climate to settlers. The migration from the Cape Provinces, from Natal, and from the Orange Free State and Transvaal territories, has been followed by one which seems likely to be of larger dimensions from England, Australia, and elsewhere. It was at first feared that, as in the case of the over-vaunted discoveries of gold in 1869, there would be a rapid reflux of the stream of immigration, but as yet no signs have been exhibited of the success obtained being on the wane. The area of search is extending, the quantity of the gems found is ever on the increase, and their quality, if anything, is improving. It is difficult to state the value of the diamonds exported through the Colony, so many having been carried away undeclared by passengers by the homeward steamers. The records of the Durban Custom House only give 9,615*l.* as the total value of the gems exported in 1870, but for the first ten months of 1871 the return stands at 32,056*l.*

6. That a very great impulse has thus been given to the trade of

South Africa, taken as a whole, there can be no doubt. For the present it would seem to have manifested itself most extensively in the eastern provinces of the Cape Colony, which have a long-established business connection with the Orange Free State, and where there are in some respects great facilities of transport. But in Natal also the year 1870 was marked by a decided increase in the quantity and value of its imports, and in the amount of revenue derived from the Customs duties. In the year 1871 just closed the impetus was more, but not much more than maintained, while the diminution of its white population from the movement towards the Vaal River, which the Colony has already experienced, proportionately great, though in itself, as compared with the exodus from the Cape Colony, numerically inconsiderable, is more severely felt than is probably the case in the sister Colony.

7. There are not wanting, however, at this time signs of renewed vitality in the trade which has been fostered by these discoveries. The demand for carriage and transport is now causing a very heavy drain upon the resources of the Colony, and the Customs' returns for the first two months of the present year have exceeded those of a like period in any previous year. There are many who think that the relative advantages of the two routes by Port Elizabeth and Natal are to be measured by the rates of Customs duties levied in each. So long as by either line the removal of goods from the sea port to the interior is dependent for carriage upon the ox waggon, the superior pastoral character of Natal will render it unnecessary, as well as impolitic, that she should embark in a war of tariffs. This natural superiority will give her a fair share in the profits to be obtained from this new field of enterprise. It would be as unwise as it would be fruitless, to aim at a monopoly, or a superabundance of benefit, by means of fiscal legislation.

8. The opening up of the interior of the continent by enterprises devoted to the extraction of its mineral wealth will no doubt, for a time, divert the stream of immigration, never a very copious one, from the cultivatable lands of the two colonies to the bare river banks along which the new population is extending itself; but this is a population requiring to be fed from other sources, and it offers therefore a fresh and a continually widening market, not only to the trader in imported goods, but to the local producer of consumable commodities. The coast produce of Natal is finding its way up to the Vaal in increasing quantities, and if the up-country farmers are leaving their homesteads to try their fortunes at "the Fields," not only will many of them return to their more congenial and, as they will probably find by their experience, equally remunerative labours, but a portion of the overflow of the immigrant population will, it may be hoped and expected, follow in their wake, and be induced, by the many advantages of soil and climate, to become permanent residents in Natal.

9. In the meantime the more legitimate business, as I may call it, of the Colony, has not slackened. The following is a statement of the annual export by sea of sugar during a series of ten years, arranged according to the crop season, that is to say, ending on the 30th June in each year:—

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A STATEMENT of the ANNUAL EXPORT of SUGAR, based on the CROP SEASON, being the 12 months ended 30th June in each year.

Exported in Twelve months.	Quarter ended 30th September.		Quarter ended 31st December.		Quarter ended 31st March.		Quarter ended 30th June.		Total. Twelve months.	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
Crop season		£		£		£		£		£
1860–61	184	4,700	356	8,920	187	4,267	130	3,399	857	21,286
1861–62	202	5,055	246	6,712	144	3,942	67	1,969	659	17,678
1862–63	125	4,506	445	10,761	168	4,228	85	1,991	823	21,486
1863–64	335	4,984	810	14,949	922	19,242	355	7,603	2,322	46,778
1864–65	1,056	25,133	1,826	42,230	1,046	22,500	414	8,651	4,342	98,514
1865–66	822	18,162	1,367	27,042	901	16,043	264	4,966	3,414	66,213
1866–67	781	16,945	1,308	28,237	803	17,050	283	6,091	3,174	68,323
1867–68	746	15,266	1,722	32,156	1,557	29,691	627	12,397	4,652	89,510
1868–69	790	16,185	1,689	32,114	2,611	46,787	1,069	21,606	6,159	116,692
1869–70	1,440	29,227	2,357	48,091	1,285	27,223	482	9,905	5,564	114,446
1870–71	1,474	32,338	2,086	41,557	2,727	55,571	1,374	29,964	7,661	159,430

I add to it a statement of the wool exported in the ten years from 1861 to 1870 inclusive, and in the nine months of 1871, ending on the 30th September last.

ACCOUNT of WOOL EXPORTED in years (ended 31st December), from 1861 to 1870, with 9 months (ended 30th September) of 1871.

Years.	Lbs. weight.	Value.
		£
1861 - - - -	647,679	32,880
1862 - - - -	906,823	38,432
1863 - - - -	1,184,621	48,519
1864 - - - -	1,443,654	61,590
1865 - - - -	1,567,952	66,647
1866 - - - -	1,660,330	70,993
1867 - - - -	1,974,447	80,999
1868 - - - -	2,717,381	91,630
1869 - - - -	3,350,437	105,544
1870 - - - -	3,612,501	120,778
Nine months of 1871 -	4,814,710	140,597

10. That the import trade of the Colony has progressively increased since 1866, the year of the greatest depression which supervened upon the overtrading of previous years, is, I think, conclusively shown by the following statement of the value of imports, and of Customs revenue received, being a comparison of receipts at ad valorem and at specific rates of duty, with the relative values of ad valorem and rated goods respectively, exhibiting the percentage borne by the former to the total return of imports.

Customs Duties and Value of Imports.

COMPARISON of RECEIPTS of SPECIFIC and AD VALOREM RATES of DUTIES; also RELATIVE VALUES of RATED and AD VALOREM GOODS, showing percentage of the latter to TOTAL IMPORTS.

Years.	Duties Received.			Value of Goods Imported.			Percentage proportion of ad valorem Goods to total Imports.
	Rated Goods.	Ad valorem.	Total Receipts.	Rated Goods.	Ad valorem.	Total Receipts.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	Per cent.
1866 - - -	18,828	10,534	29,362	105,204	158,101	263,305	60
1867 - - - -	23,129	12,309	35,438	88,136	181,444	269,580	67
1868 - - -	14,333	15,598	29,931	93,437	223,999	317,432	70
1869 - - - -	20,078	18,952	39,030	112,610	267,721	380,331	70
1870 - - -	24,293	20,677	44,970	126,327	303,200	429,527	71
Nine months of 1871	17,338	16,288	33,526	96,476	248,000	344,476	72

The value of ad valorem goods is on an average 71 per cent. of the entire importations. These represent the bulk of the commerce of the Colony. Rated goods consist mainly of spirits, wine, and such like articles of consumption, and serve to indicate but very slightly the progress of general trade. The second column in this statement shows that the revenue derived from this class of goods has grown steadily and without a check since the disastrous years above mentioned.

11. The statistics of 1871 rather than those of 1870 will exhibit the extent to which agricultural pursuits have been effected by the movement of the population of the Colony towards the Diamond-fields. At the present moment farmers who have remained in the Colony are reaping the advantages of high prices, while to the consumer the cost of living is very considerably on the increase.

12. As compared with 1869 the returns given in the Blue Book for 1870, do not lead to the conclusion that any very unfavourable result had yet been produced. The number of acres under various crops throughout the Colony in white hands which were reaped in that year was greater than in 1869 by 1,347. The number in native hands is given at 24,433 more than in 1869. The number of acres in crop at the close of 1870, in the hands of colonists stands, as compared with the returns for the previous year, at an increase of 5,968, the number in native hands at an increase of 36,214. Of live stock possessed by Europeans and natives respectively the returns exhibit as regards the former a small falling off in horses, but as regards the latter about an equivalent increase. There was during the year much horse sickness, especially on the coast. Of horned cattle, sheep, and goats, the only instance of falling off is in the number of non-wool-producing sheep possessed by natives, whose cattle and goats, however, multiplied considerably. When the live stock in the hands of the native population is kept well up in numbers, it is a sure sign that there is plenty of food in the country. This is also shown by the average price of Indian corn throughout the year, which is given at 6*s.* 4¼*d.* per muid. In 1869 it reached 14*s.* 5½*d.* per muid.

13. The most noticeable advance in production during the year under review is in the article of coffee, which rose in quantity from 4,058 lbs. grown in 1869 to no less than 1,014,210 lbs. It is probable that in a short time the market at the Diamond-fields will be mainly, if not entirely, supplied with sugar and coffee from the coast districts of Natal. It is important to the formation of a judgment upon the development of industry and enterprise in these districts that this destination of their products should be kept in view, because it will necessarily be accompanied by a falling off in the amounts of exports by sea, by which in ordinary circumstances progress is apt to be exclusively measured.

14. There is nothing which will show so clearly that the discovery of diamonds in the Vaal River had in 1870 not yet produced any great change in the ordinary condition of life in the Colony, as a comparison of the returns for 1869 and 1870 of the average market prices of live stock and produce. The returns for 1871 will no doubt present a very different picture.

15. I have already in my Despatches, No. 112, of November 30th,

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1871, and No. 123, of December 21st, 1871, reported upon the state of the hospitals and gaols of the Colony. I regret that as regards education time fails me to do more than request your Lordship's attention to two Reports enclosed of the Superintendent of Education, who is also visitor of native schools.

16. The year 1871 was fixed upon for taking a general census throughout the British dominions. For reasons adduced in my Despatch, No. 48, of 5th July, 1870, the population statistics given in the Annual Blue Books must be taken, as regards this Colony, as the only possible approach to an enumeration of its inhabitants; and I have endeavoured to ensure that those prepared for the Blue Book for 1870 should be very carefully made up. It will be desirable that a special Report should be made upon these returns when received, so as to connect them as far as possible with the general census. In the mean time it would serve little purpose, at this late date, to comment upon those contained in the compilation now transmitted.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) ROBERT W. KEATE,
Lieutenant-Governor.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 11.

Enclosure 1 in No. 11.

NATIVE SCHOOLS.

Industrial School.

1. *Industrial School.*—With the year 1869 the grants which had hitherto been made to various mission stations for industrial purposes ceased, excepting a grant to Springvale, which was continued to the middle of 1870, in order to enable the Rev. H. Calloway to finish some printing in which he was engaged.

The American Missions.

2. *The American Missions.*—Within the period of 1869–70 the American missionaries have been carrying out their plan of supplying the native schools of their own and other Missions with native teachers, and with this view of maintaining and enlarging their central training schools for native boys at Amanzimtote, and for native girls at the Inanda.

3. Their system is this: to take native lads, who have shown aptitude for learning, from the various Mission stations, and send them to the Amanzimtote, there to put the lads under a thorough discipline, to wean them from their native habits, by accustoming them to the habits of a civilized life, and to give them such a schooling as may enable them, when they have grown up, to become teachers at the stations and at the kraals of the natives.

4. In connection with this object the girls' school at the Inanda has been established. The best girls are sent from the various stations and accustomed, under a strict discipline, to the habits of civilization. They are then to be married to the lads at the Amanzimtote station, so as to stop, if possible, the tendency of the semi-civilized native to fall back on the habits of the kraal, when he marries a girl who has had no such training as that through which he himself has passed.

The results of this curious experiment to raise up among the natives a caste of (comparatively speaking) learned men, with learned wives, who can also wash, and sew, and dress themselves, and cook food in our fashion, have yet to be seen. It is a part of an experiment, which the Americans have undertaken; and it consists, in fact, in reversing, to a considerable extent, the system of proselytizing hitherto adopted; for, whereas the plan of missionaries has been, and still is, to draw the Kaffir from his kraal to the school and church at the station, the object of the American missionaries is to plant the school and the church in the kraal.

5. It is perhaps to be regretted that this attempt (so far as it concerns supplying schools and teachers to the kraals) could not have been made by the Government, rather than by a religious body.

The native teacher, under the shadow of the Mission station, may contrive to keep a school about him under the influence of the missionary, whose servant he is, and he may be able to hold his own in those little bodies of semicivilized natives, who here and there are found living in square houses in villages by themselves (as at New Leeds, and at Springfield, behind the Berea, and at Empoleveni), removed from the authority of a chief or headman, and from the customs and laws of the kraal; but also, away from the Mission station, though under the spiritual guidance of some member of a religious body. It remains to be seen whether the headman or chief will welcome to the kraal a native who comes professing not only to teach the children of the kraal reading, writing, ciphering, those mystic signs, in fact, with which the white man works such wonders, but also to teach certain principles subversive of the ancient customs of the kraal, and consequently of the authority of the chief, without, so far as he can see, making his people more powerful or better men.

6. The American schools are all on the coast range; above Durban there are at the Inanda a common school, and the central training (girls) schools, Esidumbini, Umsunduzi, and Umvoti, each with a day school, and Mapumulo, with a day and evening school.

Inanda.

7. *Inanda.*—The Inanda common school at present is only in the Second Class Drawing, 24*l.*, both on account of its numbers and from the position which its head, the Rev. Dr. Lindley, holds, the grant to this station should be placed in the First Class Drawing, 50*l.*

Umsunduzi.

8. *Umsunduzi.*—From the register of the school at Umsunduzi it would seem that the attendance is as large as at the Inanda; the acting visitor, in 1869, however, stayed a night, and waited till nearly midday on the morrow, but the missionary was unable to muster more than half-a-dozen lads from the kraals to make a school.

Umvoti.

9. *Umvoti.*—Mr. Grout is in America, so that the school at the Umvoti Mission, over which he presided, is in charge of Rev. D. Rood, from the Amanzimtote. An effort has been made to induce the natives settled at this station (who are doing well) to support their own schools; at present, apparently, to little purpose, to judge from the returns, but Mr. Rood is going to insist on their partially supporting their teachers in 1871. They have two native schoolmasters, who were trained at Amanzimtote; here, as at the Amanzimtote station, Mr. Rood reports a balance in hand of some 20*l.* of

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the grant, after the native teachers have been paid; there seems, therefore, to be no occasion to keep up the whole grant of 50*l.*, particularly if Mr. Rood succeeds in his attempts to make the natives pay for their own teachers.

Esidumbini. 10. *Esidrimbini.*—The school at Esidumbini, in like manner, is in charge of a Mr. Peacefull, in the absence in America of Rev. J. Tyler.

Mapumulo. 11. *Mapumulo.*—The school at Mapumulo is in good order. The Rev. A. Abraham has added lately a schoolmistress (white) and two (native) assistants. I have had occasion to notice that this school has been at work when I have come to the station unexpectedly. I think this school, from its character and numbers, should receive the higher grant of 50*l.*

12. The Inanda Training School for native girls, after many delays, caused particularly by the difficulty of finding a thoroughly competent mistress, was at length opened in March, 1869, in charge of Mrs. Edwards. The buildings form three sides of an oblong: in the front and centre are Mrs. Edward's rooms; the right wing holds the schoolroom, dining-room, and kitchen; the other wing holds the girls' bedrooms, a washing-room, and store-rooms, have still to be added to complete the fourth side of the oblong. Great pains are taken to drill the girls in the habits of civilized life. When the school was first opened, and furniture was all to be found, there was nothing for it but to put the pot on the ground, round which the girls squatted, in Kaffir fashion, and served out the "scoff" (porridge) to and over each other. This has long since passed way. Now they sit on forms, at a table, and the food is brought in from the kitchen, and is duly served out to them on platters. Three girls are told off each week to clean dishes, cook, and feed the fire. Another party has to clean the rooms. They sleep on bedsteads; i. e. off the floor, and wear blue cotton frocks.

13. The schoolroom is the best-finished room, in its way, in the Colony. The furniture was brought from America; and the careful love of the American for the place where his child is getting his schooling shows itself in the beauty and neatness of every article in the schoolroom, from the curious little weapons for sharpening pencils up to the pretty desks and forms, with their iron legs and mouldings painted blue, in contrast to the light maple-wood of the desks and seats.

14. There were 23 girls when the acting visitor was there in August, 1869: since that time the school has increased till it has 30, and the present buildings can hold no more.

15. Nothing is more striking than the quiet order and promptness with which everything is done in the schoolroom. Outside, when at liberty, they are a set of noisy hoydens, screaming and gesticulating, with arms and legs like the savages they still are, but in the schoolroom they are as orderly as any quiet school of white girls. Putting the personal influence of Mrs. Edwards aside, this quiet and order is the result of the admirable school drill, as precise and unchanging as the drill of troops, and producing similar results, especially in this, that obedience to orders becomes easy, prompt, almost involuntary, to the great increase of efficiency and saving of time and temper.

16. As an example of their mere school attainments, I mention that I examined them, after they had been six months under Mrs. Edwards, and though it is true they had been (probably all of them) to some one or other of the schools of the stations whence they had been drafted, yet it is no disparagement to those schools to say that I have never known any results such as the following: 20 of them were working sums in arithmetic; of these 8 were in Colenzo Progressive Examples, Series 1, Ex. 26, and each girl took a separate sum, of which this is a sample: 92*l.* 0*s.* 9½*d.* × 9, out of these 8, 7 had their sums right. Another class of 6 were working in short division, and a third class of 6 in simple multiplication, with more or less failures; still with intelligence and accuracy.

17. These are results which compare favourably with any white school in the Colony (excepting the high schools); but it must be remembered that our schools are, from necessity, made up of most unequal materials; and while several scholars in a school, of course, can do much more difficult work than this, others in the same school cannot do nearly as well. Mrs. Edwards teaches them entirely in English; and, while learning Zulu, has or had an assistant, Miss Rood, to act as interpreter in some lessons; as, for instance, in English reading, to secure that they understand what they read, by making them translate it into Zulu.

18. I think a liberal grant to this school, say 200*l.*, to enable them to enlarge their present quarters, so as to take in more boarders, would be well spent if the objects which the school has in view continue to meet the approbation of the Government.

American Schools below Durban.

19. *American Schools below Durban.*—Along the coast, on the other side of Durban, the following are the schools belonging to the American Mission. At Amanzimtote a central training school for boys, and a common school; a common day school at Ipune, Amahlongwa, Ifafa, and Umtwalume, and at Unzumbe (the most southerly station, some three hours from the Umzimkulu, the old boundary of our Colony), a common day and evening school

20. Pursuing their plan of substituting native teachers for whites, the missionaries have withdrawn from the Ipune and Amahlongeva Stations, and the schools are left in charge of masters trained at the Amanzimtote school: the common school at Amanzimtote itself is left in charge of two natives, a man and a woman; while the only schools still under white masters are at Umzumbe, where Mrs. Robbins has a school, with a native under her, Umtwalume, which, in the absence of the Rev. H. Wilder, has been admirably conducted by Mrs. Hooper, and at Ifafa, which, however, has just been closed.

Amanzimtote Common School.

20*a.* *Amanzimtote Common School.*—I do not think that those schools, at which a native presides, require more than a grant of 24*l.* for purposes strictly of education. At Amanzimtote, for instance, Mr. Rood has been at a loss to know what to do with more than 25*l.*, and has asked for leave to apply a portion of the grant (50*l.*) to paying a teacher in a kraal some miles off. I think the grant at Amanzimtote should be reduced to 24*l.*, with the understanding that Mr. Rood, or Mr. Pixly (whoever is the present manager of the station) should get a grant of, say 12*l.*, for the outlying school, if the school requires it.

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Ifafa.

21. *Ifafa.*—The school at the Ifafa Mission was not in a satisfactory condition when I was there in September, 1870. The missionary in charge of the station had jnst left for America, and I have not yet heard to what resolution the missionaries have come as to the future management of the station. At present I see no reason for continuing the grant.

May 1, 1871.—Since this Report was written, I have heard from the Rev. Mr. Wilder that he has put a native tercher at this station, with a regular attendance of 25. It may be advisable, therefore, to keep a grant of 12*l.* for this case.

Amanzimtote Central Training School for Native Boys.

22. *Amanzimtote Central Training School for Native Boys.*—The central training school for boys as Amanzimtote, under the Rev. W. Ireland's management, has steadily increased in numbers and efficiency from 1866, when I found 18 scholars, who had only been gathered together about two months in a schoolroom, which at that time was not large enough for them, to 1868, when the room had been enlarged, and there were 29 scholars present, with 32 on the books, until in last September, when I found 41 present and 42 on the books; and the enlarged room was no longer large enough for the health of the lads; and, with signs of sickness among them, it has become necessary to make a great effort to place the institution at once on a larger basis, so as to meet the increasing demand for trained natives in the various native schools in the Colony. The mission has asked the Government for aid in erecting new and extensive buildings, which may not require enlargement for a long time to come. They have asked for a grant of 500*l.* or 600*l.*§

§May 1, 1871.—I have just received the estimated expense of the works, which are already begun. They estimate that the buildings alone will cost 630*l.*, exclusive of all furniture.

42. The amount of aid which the Government can give the institution depends of course on considerations of which I know nothing; but considering the liberal grants which were made to the industrial schools, with very doubtful results, I hope it may be in the power of the Government to give substantial assistance to an undertaking which has already done so much. They had sent out 10 drilled masters in September last, and I know of another since that time. I have asked for a special Report on the number of teachers which have beeu sent out from this school.

43. As instances of the proficiency which these lads have required, I mention that I heard a class of 7 in mental arithmetic, to each of whom a sum was given to be worked out in his head; such as—

$$\tfrac{7}{5} \text{ of } 27\tfrac{3}{8} = \text{how much?}$$

6 boys answered aright; one failed, and was corrected by the fifth boy in the class. The questions and answers are given in English.

44. 29 of them had each such a question as 40 is $\frac{8}{9}$ths of how many times 8. Of these 6 failed to answer aright a first question, but answered the second question. 2 only failed to answer their second question.

45. 30 tried the following piece of dictation:—

"Water, you know, is not always in a liquid state. You have seen it changed by cold into ice, and by heat into steam, or vapour. You must have observed, too, that ice is changed back into water by heat, and steam by cold."

Two had no errors, and the whole had an average of 6 errors each.

46. 7 were in Algebra, using Colenzo's 'Algebra,' working such sums as—

$$a\,\tfrac{1}{3}x - \tfrac{1}{3} + 6\,\tfrac{2}{3} \;\mid\; a \cdot x - ' + 6\,{}^{2}\mathrm{C}.$$

11 others were in vulgar fractions; 5 were in division of money; 5 in multiplication of money; 4 in addition of money; and 9 in the earlier rules.

And all working accurately, and with comparative ease.

47. With every allowance for the fact that these are picked lads from 14 to 18 years old, these results are surprising for this Colony, whatever may be thought of them elsewhere.

P. M. Burg Central Training School.

48. *P. M. Burg Central Training School.*—The Training School at P. M. Burg, belonging to the Free Kirk of Scotland, under the Rev. James Allison, has 12 scholars, some of these act as teachers to the large evening school of adults. The new country station at Empoliveni has a school of thirty-one, they are all very young and the teaching at present is confined to Kafir.

Empoliveni.

Wesleyan Church (Native).

49. *Wesleyan Church (Native).*—Of the schools belonging to the Wesleyan Church, three industrial schools were closed at the end of 1869, viz. at Indaleni, Edendale, and Verulam: the common day schools continue at those places, and a day and evening school at P. M. Burg, and an evening school at Durban.

Verulam.

50. *Verulam.*—The school at Verulam was visited by me in September, 1869, and was not in a satisfactory condition: several changes in the supervision of the station had taken place; the Rev. S. H. Stott had only lately come to take charge, and at the time of my visit the school could hardly be said to exist. Mr. Stott has a character for energy and management, and the returns for 1870 seem to show improvement, it is one of the few schools where Zulu is not now taught as a preliminary to English.

Church of South Africa.

51. *Church of South Africa.*—Application has lately been made by the Rev. James Green for a grant in support of a native common day school, and an evening school held in the new Church of St. Martin's. The visitor found a day school of 14, with 25 on the register in charge of a white teacher (a Mr. Markhym), who has been employed in similar work for several years; on another day the visitor found an evening school of 46 present. I think this school the first in the city, founded by the South African body, should be put on the same footing as the St. Mary's school, and receive a grant of 50*l.*

High Flats.

52. *High Flats.*—The Rev. H. Calloway has a school and chapel at High Flats, with an attendance of 25 scholars on an average, and 60 on the list; he has applied for a grant. There is a considerable population of whites, half-castes, and blacks, quite sufficient for a common school; some of the Ogles are there. I think a grant of 24*l.* might be made.

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Church of England Mission, Enwabe.

53. *Church of England Mission, Enwabe.*—There was a station and school on the coast near Isipingo, which in 1866 was found by the acting visitor in charge of the Rev. W. Baugh; this station had once been nearer the coast, at Clairmont, but as the sugar plantations were made, troubles arose about cattle trespassing and the station was moved inland; what with the removal of the station, and the declining health of the Missionary and his wife, the school was not in a thriving condition. and subsequently the Missionary left the station altogether. At the end of 1869, the Bishop of Natal placed a Missionary in charge of the station, who has re-opened the school, and has had a steady attendance of 16 during the year; the school-house was in utter decay, and a new school is necessary; the school should be put in the 2nd class, receiving a grant of 24*l.* a year; and I recommend a grant of 30*l.* to be made towards the expenses of the new school-house.

Wesleyan School at New Leeds.

54. *Wesleyan School at New Leeds.*—An application was made in 1869, by the Rev. W. Mason, for a grant to a school at New Leeds which had been supported entirely by a group of native families I visited the school and was much pleased at the cleanliness, good order, and sprightliness of the children in the school; they had a native teacher, who had been brought up at the Cape, at Mr. Ayliff's school; there were 16 children present; their writing was excellent, clean and careful, and what they knew of arithmetic and reading, they knew well and accurately. As this is an instance in which the natives have endeavoured to maintain their own schoolmaster, I strongly recommend it for a grant equal to that made under the same circumstances for the group of families at Springfield, on the Berea, viz. of 18*l.*

55. The Rev. D. Lindley reports the existence of a school in a kraal, about three miles away from the Inanda station; it has been in existence more than a year and has 30 scholars in it. The native in charge of it is a teacher well known to Mr. Lindley; I recommend this school for a grant of 12*l.*

56. The visitor who has been absent for some years in England resigned at the end of June, 1870, and the acting visitor received the appointment.

(Signed)

T. WARWICK BROOKS,
Visitor of Native Schools.

Pietermaritzburg,
March 1, 1871.

Enclosure 2 in No. 11.

Enclosure 2 in No. 11.

REPORT OF THE ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE YEAR 1870.

1. The measures under the consideration of the Government for the development of our system of education have once more been postponed, while the question of colonial finance remains unsettled.

2. One measure which the Government has for some time had in view is to substitute, in Pietermaritzburg and Durban, Model Scools, supported and managed by the Government, for schools as at present aided by grants.

3. The heads of these schools will probably have to be sought in England for some time to come; they must be qualified, by their training at home, to supply, from the ranks of their scholars, teachers capable of taking charge of the country schools in the Colony.

4. To enable young men and women to acquire the art of teaching at these central training schools, it may be necessary to pay them a small salary in order that they may be able to remain at school somewhat longer than is usual with those of our young people, who have to begin early to earn their livelihood.

5. Another object which the Government has in view is to appropriate, from year to year, such a sum of money as the Colony can afford for the purpose of building school-houses on public land. There need be no fear that Government, in thus acting, will supersede or interfere with private efforts; the system partially at work at present, as regards granting aids to maintain schools, might be equally applied to granting aids to building schools; that is to say, the Government grants for building might bear some fixed proportion to the support in money, or money's worth, guaranteed by the neighbourhood which applies for a building grant; and the local management of the school might remain, as now (where the material for a committee exists) in the hands of a committee; the Government would only have to be satisfied: (i.) That the land was duly and legally alienated for the purpose of public education; (ii.) That the school should be, as is the case at present with aided schools, under the inspection of an officer or board appointed or sanctioned by the Government.

6. The Superintendent of Education, who has been absent from this Colony since April, 1866, on public service not connected with this department, resigned his office of Superintendent at the end of June; the vacancy thus created remains unfilled, awaiting the settlement of our colonial finance.

7. When, or if, the vacancy is supplied, it will be necessary to allow the Superintendent some clerical assistance; the present business of the office in Pietermaritzburg, which could well be discharged by a clerk, occupies time which the Superintendent should have for inspecting schools in the Colony.

8. The High School, Pietermaritzburg, which had an average attendance of 21 in 1869, has had, throughout 1870, a steady attendance, averaging 28; this arrested increase, under the present able management, seems to indicate that the present scholars are all whose parents can pay the present fee without inconvenience, and the Government has had under its consideration whether it would be possible to lower the fees without materially diminishing the revenue derived from them.

9. At Durban the Government has at length secured larger quarters for the High School; the rooms hitherto occupied by the High School were not large enough to hold more than 30 scholars, and the Head Master has had to refuse numerous applications which have been made to him to admit scholars; the change of quarters has afforded an opportunity of trying whether the fees could be lowered, and the number of scholars so increased at the same time, as to save the revenue from much loss, and the Lieutenant-Governor has ordered a reduction of the fees hitherto demanded to a uniform fee of ten shillings a month, to commence with the New Year; if the reduction works

NATAL.

fairly a similar reduction may be made at the High School, Pietermaritzburg.

10. The condition of the two Government Schools continues to be unsatisfactory. The Government School at Pietermaritzburg had an average attendance of—

104	in the year	1867
100	„	1868
87	„	1869
79	„	1870

The cost of this school to the Government in 1870 has been—

	£	s.	d.
Head Master	200	0	0
Assistant Teachers	200	0	0
Rent of Schoolhouse	36	0	0
Petty expenses	16	10	8
Total	£452	10	8

i. e. the cost of each average attendant in the year has been over 114 shillings. The school fees in the year have amounted to 43*l.* 15*s.*

11. The Government School at Durban had an average attendance of—

113	in the year	1867
94	„	1868
87	„	1869
69·5	„	1870

The cost of this school has been, in 1870:

	£	s.	d.
Head Master	200	0	0
Assistant Teachers	150	0	0
Petty expenses	17	18	2
Total	£367	18	2

or at the rate of 106 shillings a head.

The school fees in the year have amounted to 32*l.* 6*s.*

12. Making allowance, on the one hand, for the increased activity of private or denominational schools in Pietermaritzburg and Durban, but considering, on the other hand, what advantage these Government Schools have over others (as, for instance, a greater command of money, the independence of the master of every one save the Government), it is difficult not arrive at one or other of these conclusions, viz.: either that such improvements must be made in the management of these schools as to make them attractive and useful to many more scholars than those who at present attend; or that the expenses must be reduced; or that the schools be closed altogether.

13. The number of aided schools in 1870 was 65; 10 itinerants and 7 grants.

The total cost of the schools maintained or aided by Government during 1870 was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Government aid	4,097	0	6
Private aid	5,124	2	3
Total	£9,221	2	9

There were—

Government Schools	4
Aided Schools	65
Itinerant Schools	10
Total	79

And the average attendance at the end of the year was 1,797; hence we have 22·7 as the average attendance at the schools, and 102 shillings as the cost a head.

14. The following books, maps, &c., were issued in the Educational Department during the year:—

Books	2,076
Copy Books	2,421
Maps	25
Registers	91
Wall Tablets	90
Total	4,703

Of these the following were sold:—

Books	1,228
Copy Books	2,277
Maps	0
Wall Tablets	12
Total	3,517

For which books the sum of 57*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* has been paid into the Treasury; this is, within a few pounds, the sum which has been paid in each year for some time from the sale of books, and the grant for books, maps, &c., has been for some time 50*l.* each year; consequently, by means of the large stock of books provided by the Superintendent up to 1866, and the small yearly additions purchased with the 50*l.* vote, the department has been able to furnish schools at their commencement, or schools in poor neighbourhoods, with the necessary class books, as well as schools, both public and private, with good wall maps at no present cost to the Colony.

15. Comparing the present returns with those of former years, it is noticeable that the attendance continues to increase, though not so much as in the two previous years. In 1867 the attendance which had been falling during the two past years to 1,290, rose—

In 1868, to 1,491
„ 1869, „ 1,712
„ 1870, „ 1,797

The public aid to schools in the past year (4,097*l.*) is slightly in excess of the sums spent in the three previous years, but has not attained to the amounts spent in 1865, 1866, viz. 4,158*l.* and 4,494*l.* respectively.

16. In Pietermaritzburg, the Chapel Street School has, in the

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course of the year, raised its average attendance to 36, and has fairly earned the higher grant of 50*l*.

17. At Richmond the girls' school has developed into a boarding school, to which its supporters have given the name of St. Mary's College. It is under the general superintendence of the Rev. T. G. Fearne; in October he secured the services of Mrs. Longhurst, whose useful school in Pietermaritzburg had just begun to receive a Government grant; considerable difficulties have attended, and still attend, this undertaking, which requires no small outlay for buildings and furniture in a Colony where neither capital nor labour is abundant; a good boarding school, giving a fair education on moderate terms to the daughters of our colonists, is an object (to say the least of it) as desirable as boarding schools for our boys.

18. A day school for girls remains in charge of Mrs. Earnshaw.

19. Another year has passed without the Government having been able to secure a title to the land and school-house occupied by Mr. Kearsley's school; the attendance has been falling off, and the school cannot claim for the year a higher grant than 25*l*.

20. Removals have taken place among the little group of families which supported the school at Clarendon; the school has been closed, and its master has taken charge of the school at Fort Nottingham.

21. The school at Malton last year received a new master, but it seems unable to maintain its numbers, and can barely claim the continuance even of the diminished grant.

22. The Rev. C. Maber has encountered delays in getting a boarding school at work for the neighbourhood of Boston, so that there has been no school held there during the year.

23. Both at Broughton and Albert the schools are prospering, and at both the plan of taking boarders is successfully carried out.

24. The schools at Lions' River and Sterk Spruit were closed in June, but, under Miss Russell, a school has been opened at Caversham with the view of supplying the wants of both places.

25. In Durban the Coolie Schools, under the Rev. R. Stott, hold their ground; in the absence of any municipal organization for giving the children of the Coolies in Durban the means of education, all that has at present been done is to keep a common day school on foot, and an evening school, in which young men can be trained to act as teachers in other schools as they spring up; this has already been the case at Mr. Robinson's Estate at the Lower Umkomanzi, and will (there is reason to hope) be the case on other estates on the coast; the Coolies themselves care little for the schooling which their children get, and will not allow their girls to learn at all; they subscribe nothing towards their schools except by giving the master occasional presents of food.

26. During the year, the school held in St. Joseph's has steadily increased its numbers, and has gained the full aid of 50*l*.

27. St. Cyprian's also has a good and thriving school of 52 scholars at the end of the year; it has made good its claim to a grant of 50*l*., the highest which the Government, under present circumstances, allows to schools of this class; both these schools, which are, in a measure, rivals, and successful rivals of the Government School, are held at present in the body of their respective Churches; whether for this

or other reasons, the tone of these schools compares favourably with that of the Government School.

28. Berea. This school, which was almost extinct at the end of 1869, secured the services of Mrs. Rippon; under her the school has prospered, and has had a steady attendance through the year averaging 41.

29. The boys' school at Addington was closed at the end of the second quarter; thereupon the Rev. F. S. Robinson endeavoured to organize a school at the Point, and succeeded; on leaving for England he put the school in the charge of the Rev. C. Kirke, whose sudden death has interfered with the prospects of a school for which there is much need.

30. Both the Mansion House and Kennington Schools provide means of education of a superior kind for girls in Durban. Under the present system these schools have earned grants in aid by the good results which they showed; facts, both at Pietermatitzburg and at Durban, prove that this kind of school can hardly be maintained without Government aid.

31. At Pinetown the school-house has been unfortunately destroyed by lightning; Mr. Welch for a time allowed his Chapel to be used by the school. The School Committee applied to Government for an aid in building a new school-house, but the Lieutenant-Governor, in reply (agreeing with the principle of the application), felt unable to comply with the request at present, until, in fact, the subject of public grants for school building had been discussed and arranged between the Governor and the Council, for which the present time did not seem opportune.

32. The school at Ifafa has been closed, and those at Esinkombeni and Umtwalume have fallen off until their present numbers are too small to justify a continuance of their grants.

33. Isipingo. The school here has been receiving a 50*l.* grant, but its average attendance has fallen considerably below the numbers required to maintain that grant, and there is not anything in the teaching of an exceptional character. The grant should be reduced to 36*l.*

34. The attempt to establish a school, which should be a central boarding school to a district, appears once more to have failed at Ladysmith; the Rev. W. O. Newnham has established a good school there, and has boarders from distant parts of the Colony, but not from the neighbourhood, for which this school was intended to afford a means of education, cheap and easy of access. In the same manner disappointment has attended the efforts in Klip River to establish permanent schools; at Burnside and Dundee the schools, which there was reason to hope would have an existence at least for some years, are closed; and so, at the other side of the Klip River County, the school at Du Plessis has also been closed.

35. In Victoria County the schools at Mount Moreland, Rose Hill, and Inanda, make no advance. Schools in these small country districts depend for their support on the presence or absence of one or two families; as these come or go the school rises above or falls below the number required under the rule of 1862 to entitle a school to draw a grant.

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36. Verulam School has had the advantage of the Rev. Jas. Boyd's care since 1866, and it is to be regretted that he is about to resign. In consideration of the high character of the master, and the local support given to this school, it has retained throughout a grant of 70*l*. Mr. Boyd's teaching was vigorous, exact, and intelligent, and it will be difficult to supply his place.

37. Rev. T. Taylor's School at Greytown hardly keeps up its numbers, and the girls' school has lately lost its mistress, and is a present closed. At Welgefonden the families were purposing to build a school-house and a dwelling-house for the master when the Acting-Superintendent visited the school in June; since that time the scheme has been abandoned, and at present there seems no prospect of its being carried out; the school continues to be held in the lean-to of a farm-house, by no means large enough for the number of scholars; it maintains its numbers, its master, Mr. Sheridan, has been raised from the rank of an itinerant, and the school now receives a grant in proportion to the number of its scholars.

38. The same permanent character has been acquired by the school at Nooitgedacht. The parents of the families there, as at Welgefonden, seem to understand that the old system of teachers, who stay for a few months in a farm-house and then move elsewhere, is expensive and of little permanent value; the other system, viz. that of sending children to a stationary school, causes trouble, doubtless, and some sacrifice, but there can be no doubt that it is the right method to promote education in the country districts; it will be some time, however, before the advantages of the system are felt by the farmers, and generally adopted.

39. The boarding school at the Hermannsburg Mission continues to prosper and to increase its numbers, ending the year 1870 with an average attendance of 82 against 77 of 1869. Its energetic Head Master has been largely adding to the buildings, to increase the comfort of the scholars, and to provide quarters for additional masters from Europe.

40. Mr. Harding has succeeded in reviving the school at Weenen; the local support is still very insufficient, but the attendance during the year has been 29.

41. At Kruisfontein an itinerant teacher seems to have established a school of sufficient permanence and numbers to give hope of the school receiving a grant.

42. The Legislative Council this year has approved of the vote for "New and Additional Grants" for 1871, and has, by so doing, given the Government the means of assisting schools in the process of forming, or of rewarding the efforts of schools already at work.

43. The difficulties which appeared last year sufficient to prevent the introduction of the Middle Class Examination System into the Colony have been removed, and the Syndicate has resolved to extend its examination to the Colony; it was too late before their resolution was conveyed to us to do anything in 1870, but we may hope to see the system at work in 1871 or 1872.

It will take a year or two more for the colonists to become accustomed to the system, and to avail themselves of it; when that time comes it may be hoped that some settlement of our financial troubles

will have been arrived at; until then it would be premature to do more than to suggest that these examinations should be supplemented by exhibitions to enable a successful candidate to pursue his studies in Europe, or by appointments in the Civil Service of the Colony.

T. WARWICK BROOKS,
Acting Superintendent of Education.

Office Superintendent of Education,
March 1, 1871.

ST. HELENA.

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor PATEY to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, St. Helena, April 20, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for 1870.

I have already had occasion to bring under your Lordship's notice that the past year has been one of great depression in the Island, caused mainly by the decrease in the shipping trade, and the reduction of the Military Establishments hitherto maintained on this Island.

3. The stagnation in the trade of the place has very materially affected the sources of revenue. In my Despatch, No. 72, 25th August, 1870, I reported to your Lordship that I saw reason to anticipate that the amount of revenue for 1870 would fall probably 6,500*l.* below the amount which had been estimated for that year. I regret to say that this has proved to be the case;

	£	s.	d.
The actual receipts being - - -	15,973	17	4
The estimated revenue for 1870 - -	22,355	0	0
	£6,381	2	8

4. Every possible opportunity has been taken to reduce the expenditure, but some of the large items of reduction could not take immediate effect.

	£
The expenditure for 1870 amounted to - -	18,943
Estimated expenditure - - - - -	22,176
	£3,233

5. In consequence of the want of funds some of the claims still remain unsettled. The debt also due for the conveyance of mails at the end of 1869 has now been further increased by the amount for the year 1870, and the contract still remains in force, and will not expire until 30th June, 1871.

ST. HELENA.

6. The imports for the last three years show—

	£
1868 - - -	117,110
1869 - - -	122,759
1870 - - -	84,781

In the above return of imports is included the value of oil from the Southern Whale Fishery, landed at St. Helena, and afterwards reshipped to the United States. When this item is deducted, the imports for 1870 will show 61,000*l.* as against 87,260*l.* in 1869, the difference arising chiefly from a falling off in the imports from the United Kingdom to the amount of 18,941*l.*, owing doubtless to the failure in the local trade.

7. The number of vessels which have paid tonnage dues amount to—

1868 - - -	749 vessels,	453,827 tons.
1869 - - -	746 „	473,116 „
1870 - - -	677 „	441,472 „

A much larger number pass through the port on their homeward voyage without anchoring or taking supplies, and those that anchor require on an average a much smaller proportion of supplies than was usual a few years since, owing principally to the increased facilities which now exist for provisioning ships for the entire voyage, rendering them independent of supplies at intermediate ports.

8. The supply also to Coolie ships and troop-ships, which formed a considerable item in former years, is now much reduced. The Coolie ships are now provided with condensers, by which means they supply themselves with fresh water, and the troops from India return home by way of the Red Sea.

Agriculture.

9. The agricultural state of the Island is very low. The principal portion of the cattle and sheep consumed on the Island or supplied to the shipping is imported from the Cape of Good Hope, and these are of very inferior quality.

Some thousand acres of grazing land are entirely unoccupied, and the few cattle and sheep belonging to the islanders are in most instances much neglected.

No. of cattle, 1,105.

No. of sheep, 3,615.

10. The supply of vegetables is very limited. Potatoes, said to have been formerly most abundant and excellent in quality, have now greatly deteriorated, and the crops are very precarious. The same may be said of all kinds of fruit. The land, although to a certain extent productive, appears to have lost much of its former reputed fertility; great patience, care, and industry are now required to master the trials with which the cultivator of the soil has to contend. Insect pests, such as grubs, caterpillars, beetles, &c., &c., &c., prevail to a great extent, and rats and mice abound and cause much destruction to the growing crops.

11. During the last year a quantity of guano (about 1,000 tons) has been collected in the Island from covered deposits, which had

hitherto escaped notice, being found in spots to which sea birds have long ceased to resort, as well as on the small rocky islands where birds still abound. The gathering of this guano has afforded employment to a few of the labouring population at a rate of two pounds per ton. An export duty of ten shillings per ton is levied on guano.

Little use is made of the guano by the inhabitants themselves for agricultural purposes, although the experiments made with it seem to prove that very great advantage might arise from its use upon the land. Manure of any kind is little employed. Valuable manure from the stables in the town (amounting to many tons in the course of the year) is daily thrown into the sea.

12. With reference to the chinchona plantation, established by the Government in 1869, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that at the end of 1870 there were about 800 plants in a healthy thriving condition, viz. 500 of the Chinchona succirubra and 300 of the C. officinalis. The tallest of these plants had attained the height of 7 ft. 2 in. above the ground, and about 300 of them averaged 4 ft. 6 in. in height. The cultivation of the species C. cailsaya and C. pahudiana has been discontinued because it was found that they did not thrive as well as the other species.

13. The Bermuda cedar has been recently introduced by seed sent by Dr. Hooker, and planted in various positions, where they appear to thrive well. A number of Norfolk Island pines (Araucaria excelsa) have been raised from seed grown on the Island, and have been planted out during the past year. Trees of both these species have by my direction been planted in James Town, where the temperature is very high, and they thrive apparently as well, or perhaps better, than in colder positions. A number of other trees, promising to be of use and ornament, have been planted in the grounds at Plantation. 500 coffee trees have also been planted out, and look well, but at present it is too early to form an opinion of their success. It appears that a considerable quantity of coffee was once raised on the Island, but the old plantations have now fallen into decay.

Fisheries.

14. To the return of fisheries I have appended a printed statel ment, furnished to me by the American Consul, showing in detai the number of whalers which have visited this port, and made it their rendezvous during the year 1870, together with the quantity of oil taken, amounting to nearly 50,000 barrels, worth at the lowest average 300,000*l*. A large portion of this oil was taken in the neighbouring seas, some in the immediate vicinity of the Island.

15. The inhabitants benefit but to a small extent from this valuable source of wealth, which, had they the energy, enterprise, and capital needful, might be turned to profitable account. A few natives are occasionally shipped as seamen on board American whalers.

16. There is an abundance of fish of good quality around the Island, but the quantity taken is very inadequate to the demand The fishermen are mostly an idle and drunken class. A coarse kind

ST. HELENA.

of salted fish is largely imported from the Cape of Good Hope and sold at fourpence per pound. The fish of St. Helena are deemed very superior to those of the Cape.

17. I have made personal efforts to arouse and encourage the fishermen. With this object in view I have from my private funds laid out 50*l.* for the purchase of suitable boats, gear, and fishing tackle. Men were offered employment in these boats at one shilling each per diem, free of all expense, and a share of the fish caught (one-fourth part), but could not be induced to accept the offer. The remaining three-fourths was to be sold at a rate not exceeding sixpence per dozen fish to pay wages and other expenses.

Hospital.

18. I am enabled to report to your Lordship satisfactorily on the condition of the Colonial Hospital. Many improvements have been effected during the past year. I consider it to be the most creditable and valuable establishment on the Island, where sick seamen of all nations are received and carefully treated for any period of time without further charge than the one penny per ton levied on ships anchoring. I beg to express my high approval of the manner in which the colonial surgeon, Mr. C. H. Fowler, performs his very onerous duties.

The number of seamen in 1870		132
Civilians	Male	26
	Female	37
		195

Education.

19. There are five day schools supported by the Government, and one evening school, at a cost of 720*l.* per annum, and a grant of 50*l.* is made to the Benevolent Society in aid of their schools.

20. I attended the Christmas examination of all the schools. The number of children under instruction is—

	Boys.	Girls.
Government Schools	268	174
Benevolent Society ditto	154	102
Hussey School	59	42
Baptist ditto	99	134
Others	62	57
Total	642	509

21. The Government School buildings, with the exception of the girls' school, erected in 1869, I found in a very dilapidated and dirty condition. The whole have been cleansed and put in sound repair, in which state I trust to be enabled to maintain them.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES GEORGE PATEY,
Rear-Admiral, Governor.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

New South Wales.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 13.

No. 13.

The Registrar-General's Report to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Sir, Registrar-General's Office, Sydney, October 1, 1871.

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Statistical Register for the year 1870, accompanied by the usual Report, which brings under notice some of the most important general results obtained from the returns published in detail in the Register.

PART I.

Population, Immigration, Vital Statistics, &c.

Population.

The estimated population of the Colony on 31st December, 1869, was 485,356, to which must be added the excess of births over deaths for the year 1870, amounting to 13,090, and the number of arrivals over departures, 4,415. The total estimated population on 31st December, 1870, will be 502,861, which is an increase on the previous year of 17,505, or 3·60 per cent.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

By referring to Tables 3, 4, and 5, Part 1 of this Register, it will be seen that during the year 1870 there were 19,648 births recorded, 3,848 marriages celebrated, and 6,558 deaths registered.

Immigration.

No immigrants arrived during the year 1870 at the public expense. There is a return showing the number of immigrants who arrived in the Colony, commencing from the year 1861, distinguishing those brought out at the public expense from those who paid their own passages. Another return will be found showing the amount expended on immigration out of the public funds.

Lunatic and Invalid Institutions.

There were 652 patients in the Hospital for the Insane at Gladesville on 31st December, 1869, and 197 were admitted during the year 1870, making a total of 849 under care during the year. Out of this number there were 76 discharged, recovered; 9 discharged, relieved; 234 removed, not improved; 29 died, and 1 escaped; in all 349, leaving on 31st December last a total number of 500 patients in the institution.

The number of inmates in the Free Lunatic Asylum at Parramatta

on 31st December, 1869, was 490. During the year 1870 there were 273 admissions, making the total number of patients under care to amount to 763—of these 16 were discharged, recovered; 1 discharged, relieved; 4 removed, not improved; and 44 died. Thus there remained 698 inmates on the 31st December last, on which date there were also 21 invalids in this institution. The Convict Lunatic Asylum at Parramatta contained 58 inmates on 31st December, 1869, and no fresh cases were admitted during the past year, during which period 3 deaths occurred, leaving 55 patients on 31st December last; on this date there were also 2 invalids. The total cost of maintaining the Government lunatic asylums for the year 1870 was 30,417*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*

Charitable Institutions.

The number of charitable institutions throughout the Colony in the year 1870 was as follows, viz.:—36 hospitals, 7 benevolent asylums, 11 orphan and other schools, 5 lunatic asylums, consisting of 4 Government institutions, including the lunatic receiving house at Darlinghurst, and 1 private asylum at Cook's River, also 5 other miscellaneous institutions. The number of admissions into these hospitals during the year 1870 was 3,797, and there were 3,299 patients discharged or removed during the same period. The deaths numbered 445. Two hospitals, those at Adelong and Kiandra, are reported as closed. The total receipts are as follows, viz. from Government, 16,004*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, from voluntary contributions, 11,273*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, making a total of 27,278*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* The disbursements amounted to 24,695*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* The number admitted into the various benevolent asylums during the year 1870 was 1,811, out of which there were discharged or removed 1,493, and 256 deaths occurred. There were 1,202 inmates in these establishments on 31st December last, being an increase of 65 on the same date of the previous year. Three of these asylums, viz. at Hyde Park, Sydney, Parramatta, and Liverpool, being Government institutions, were wholly supported by public funds, at a cost of 11,245*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*

The receipts of the remaining four asylums were 5,947*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*, that is to say, 3,953*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.* from the Government, and 1,994*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* from voluntary contributions. The disbursements for the year amounted to 6,758*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*

With regard to the orphan schools, &c., it is shown that the first four of these institutions which appear on the return, viz. Protestant Orphan School, Roman Catholic Orphan School, nautical schoolship 'Vernon,' and Industrial and Reformatory School for Girls at Newcastle, were entirely supported by the Government, at a cost of 13,900*l.* 13*s.*

The Asylum for Destitute Children at Randwick is maintained partly by public money and partly by voluntary contributions. The total receipts for the past year were 13,120*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, of which the Government contributed 8,874*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*, and the public, 4,245*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* The disbursements of the year were 12,995*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* The number of children in this institution on 31st December last was 777. The

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sydney Female School of Industry is supported by voluntary contributions, which amounted to 498*l.* 17*s.*, the disbursements being 637*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*

The Deaf and Dumb and Blind Institution is supported by Government aid and voluntary contributions—the former amounting to 450*l.*, the latter to 954*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*, in all 1,404*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* The disbursements for the year were 1,384*l.* 9*s.* There were 40 inmates in this establishment on 31st December last.

There are three Ragged Schools in Sydney, which number 351 children on 31st December. These are entirely supported by voluntary contributions. The total receipts for the year were 601*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*, and the disbursements 573*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*

The remaining charitable institutions, under the head of "Miscellaneous," are, the Home Institution, Sydney Female Refuge, House of The Good Shepherd, Sydney Sailor's Home, and City Night Refuge and Soup Kitchen, and are wholly supported by voluntary contributions, which last year amounted to 3,925*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*, the disbursements being 3,766*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*

The grand total disbursements for charitable institutions (including lunatic asylums) for the year 1870 were 106,374*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* as against 126,530*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* for the year 1869.

Rates of Wages.

From a decennial return of the rate of wages, it will be seen that there was very little deviation from the rate which ruled in the previous year.

Provisions.

The price of some of the most important articles of consumption was rather less than in the year 1869, with the exception of meat, which appears to have been 1*d.* per lb. higher.

PART II.

RELIGION, EDUCATION, AND CRIME.

Under the head "Ecclesiastical" will be found a return of the number of registered ministers belonging to each denomination, with the amount received by each in the shape of salaries and allowances from the public purse and from the Church and School Estates Fund; also the number of churches and chapels, with their accommodation and average attendance, and the average attendance in public buildings or dwellings used for public worship.

The total number of registered ministers was 483, and of churches and chapels 907, the average attendance being 172,320. There is an increase of 7 in the number of registered ministers, and of 89 in the number of churches and chapels. The total amount received from the two sources above-mentioned was 25,829*l.* 18*s.*, being less by 1,612*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* than the previous year.

Sunday Schools.

A large increase is noticed in the number of Sunday schools. There were 805 in 1869, and 860 in 1870. The teachers number 5,674 as against 5,425 in the previous year. The average attendance of scholars in 1869 was 48,081, and 52,327 in 1870.

Day Schools.

The number of children in the Protestant and Roman Catholic orphan schools was 571, being a slight decrease on the preceding year.

The Asylum for Destitute Children shows a small increase, the numbers being 750 in 1869, and 764 in 1870. The voluntary contributions amounted to 4,245*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, being an increase of 418*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* on the year 1869.

Under the head of "Industrial Schools," the nautical ship 'Vernon' had 114 scholars, the industrial school for girls at Newcastle and the reformatory school at the same place 110 and 2 scholars respectively.

The total number of schools under the Council of Education was 846, in which there were 59,814 scholars and 1,200 teachers. The total amount paid out of the Colonial Treasury during the year 1870 was 111,282*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, which was supplemented by a sum of 39,583*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* from voluntary contributions, fees, and other sources, making a grand total of 150,866*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*

These schools consisted of—

	No. of Schools.	No. of Teachers.	No. of Scholars.
Public schools - -	358	568	28,592
Provisional schools - -	164	153	4,382
Half-time schools -	82	30	1,253
	604	751	34,227
Denominational schools—			
Church of England -	115	215	12,297
Roman Catholic -	92	172	9,796
Presbyterian - -	19	36	1,883
Wesleyan - -	15	24	1,474
Hebrew - - -	1	2	137
	242	449	25,587

The University of Sydney had an attendance of 41 students, being the same number as the year before. The receipts from fees, &c., were 938*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*; from the Government, 5,000*l.* In St. Paul's College there were 6 students, and the like number in St. John's College. The receipts of the former from fees and other sources amounted to 605*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*, and of the latter to 138*l.*, both receiving 500*l.* from Government.

The number of students in the Sydney Grammar School has increased by 25. The receipts were 3,116*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* from fees, &c., and 1,500*l.* from the Government.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

There were 524 private schools in the Colony, giving instruction to 12,814 scholars, of which 5,837 were males and 6,977 females. The grand total amount expended on education (exclusive of private schools) was 191,589*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*; the Government contributed 142,008*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, and 49,581*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* was derived from fees and other sources. The total number of scholars in the Colony receiving instruction was 74,503.

Crime.

The number of commitments for trial in the Supreme and Circuit Courts during the year 1870 was 252, being a decrease of 25 on the previous year; the convictions for the same period being 147. The Quarter Sessions commitments for the year were 785, or 50 less than the previous year. The convictions in these Courts were 454. The total number of commitments was 1,037; the total number of convictions 601, or 1·217 per 1,000 of the estimated population at the middle of the year.

Under the head of summary jurisdiction it is shown that 11,345 persons were convicted and sentenced, and 1,037 were committed for trial, making a total of 12,382.

The convictions and committals are as follows:—

	Convicted.		Committed.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females	Total.
For offences against the person	3,303	1,211	203	41	4,758
„ „ property -	1,155	277	723	70	2,225
Drunkenness - - - -	4,154	1,245	—	—	5,399
	8,612	2,733	926	111	12,382
	11,345		1,037		

The number of persons convicted of drunkenness exceeded that of the previous year by 1,254, or about 3 in every 1,000 of the estimated population.

PART III.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Imports.

The total value of imports for the year 1870 was 7,757,281*l.* As compared with the previous year they are as follows:—

	1869.	1870.
From United Kingdom - -	£3,544,285	£3,200,706
„ British Colonies - -	3,919,092	3,724,292
„ Foreign States - -	929,376	832,283
Total - - - -	£8,392,753	£7,757,281

Thus there is a decrease of 635,472*l.* on the total value of imports.

The import trade from the Australian Colonies and New Zealand was as follows:—

		£
Victoria	Seaward	705,387
	Overland	448,308
		£1,153,695
South Australia	Seaward	270,798
	Overland	95,682
		£366,480
Tasmania		90,827
New Zealand		298,951
Queensland		1,240,877
Western Australia		144

Exports.

The total value of exports was 7,990,038*l.*, which is a large decrease when compared with the previous year:—

	1869.	1870.
To United Kingdom	£3,267,019	£2,492,640
„ British Colonies	6,357,551	5,194,508
„ Foreign States	308,872	302,890
	£9,933,442	£7,990,038

Exports to the Australian Colonies and New Zealand were as follows:—

		£
Victoria	Seaward	771,704
	Overland	1,811,848
		£2,583,552
South Australia	Seaward	24,822
	Overland	325,425
		£350,247
Tasmania		26,555
New Zealand		197,025
Queensland		639,761

Imports and Exports.

The excess of imports *seaward* was 1,360,526*l.*; the excess of exports *overland* was 1,593,283*l.* The total excess of exports over imports was 232,757*l.*

The amount per head of the imports was at the rate of 15*l.* 14*s.* 3½*d.*, and of exports 16*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* per head of the population.

New South Wales.

PART IV.

Mills and Manufactures.

The number of mills for grinding and dressing grain was 187, of which 155 were driven by steam, 16 by water, 8 by wind, and 8 by horse-power.

Manufactories, Works, &c.

The total number of these was 6,882 as against 4,497 in 1869, being an increase of 2,385.

Woollen Manufactories.

There were 6 establishments for the manufacture of cloth and tweeds, which turned out 187,470 yards. There is a decrease of 1 mill and 46,434 yards on the previous year.

Soap and Candles.

The number of establishments for the manufacture of soap and candles was 28. The quantity of soap manufactured was 64,192 cwt., and of candles 11,129 cwt., being a decrease of 9,031 cwt. of the former and 4,507 cwt. of the latter, as compared with the year 1869.

Tobacco.

The quantity of tobacco manufactured was 8,165 cwt. from 38 establishments. Here again is a falling off of 762 cwt. on the previous year.

Sugar.

The quantity of sugar manufactured during the year was 677 tons, the production of 27 mills. The returns show that 500 tons of this quantity was from the district of Grafton.

Tallow and Lard.

It appears that during the year 1870 there were 290,696 sheep slaughtered at the various boiling-down establishments, being 60,146 above the number for 1869. The number of horned cattle was only 74, and of pigs 1,042. The tallow produced was 87,708 cwt., of which the metropolitan district contributed 42,513 cwt., a large portion of which is obtained from the refuse in butchers' shops. The quantity of lard produced was 4,104 lbs.

PART V.

Production.

The quantity of gold received at the Mint by escort from the various Gold-fields of the Colony during the year 1870, amounted o 198,664 ounces, valued 763,655*l*., being a slight decrease on the

previous year. The quantity and value of gold received from each gold district is as follows:—

	Quantity.	Value.		
	oz.	£	s.	d.
Western District - -	128,634·61	496,337	10	5
Southern „ - -	55,757·92	212,611	14	1
Northern „ - -	14,271·79	54,706	5	9
	198,664·32	763,655	10	3

The average price of gold was, from the Western Gold-field, 3*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*; from the Southern, 3*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*; and from the Northern, 3*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*

Miners' Licences.

The number of miners' licences issued during the year was 14,329, being an increase of 1,386 on the year 1869.

Coal-mines.

Of the 32 coal-mines 26 were in operation during the year, which produced 868,564 tons, of the value of 316,835*l.* This is a decrease on the year 1869 of 51,209 tons. The quantity of coal exported to Queensland, New Zealand, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, was 335,564 tons, of which Victoria took 180,552 tons, and New Zealand 87,979 tons. The export to other parts was 242,825, making a total of 578,389 tons.

Copper.

The quantity of copper ore raised was 358 tons, valued at 20,060*l.*

Kerosene.

The produce of kerosene shale was 8,580 tons, of the value of 27,570*l.*, being an increase on the preceding year in quantity and value of 1,080 tons and 8,820*l.*

Agriculture.

The occupiers of land (exclusive of those occupied in pastoral pursuits) numbered 31,538, of which 19,752 were freeholders and 11,786 leaseholders, being an increase on the total number of 3,818, as compared with the year 1869.

The extent of freeholds comprised 5,272,202 acres, or 61· per cent.; and of leaseholds 3,356,123 acres, or 39· per cent.,—in all 8,628,325 acres. The excess in area over the previous year is 770,856 acres.

The area of land in cultivation decreased from 482,324 acres in 1869 to 434,012 acres in 1870.

Enclosed lands not in cultivation show an acreage of 3,935,758 acres, being an increase of 242,545 acres, or 6· per cent. on the year 1869.

Unenclosed holdings have increased from 3,681,931 acres in 1869 to 4,258,555 acres in 1870, being an increase of over half a million of acres.

The following is a Table showing the number of acres in cultivation under each description of crop, and their production:—

TABLE SHOWING the NUMBER of ACRES in CULTIVATION under each DESCRIPTION of CROP, and their PRODUCTION.

Crops.	1869.		1870.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	Acres.	Produce.	Acres.	Produce.	Acres.	Produce.	Acres.	Produce.
Wheat - - -	189,452	3,200,959 bush.	147,997	999,595 bush.	—	—	41,455	2,201,364 bush.
Maize - - - -	128,041	4,880,805 „	107,178	2,340,654 „	—	—	20,863	2,540,151 „
Barley - - -	9,151	148,617 „	4,650	47,701 „	—	—	4,501	100,916 „
Oats - - - -	17,301	400,766 „	10,683	119,365 „	—	—	6,618	281,401 „
Cotton - - -	—	—	2¼	11 lbs.	2¼	11 lbs.	—	—
Rye - - - -	2,378	37,434 bush.	1,295	11,691 bush.	—	—	1,083	25,743 bush.
Millet - - -	134	1,806 „	359	4,747 „	—	—	—	—
Potatoes - - -	17,132	54,200 tons.	13,927	34,118 tons.	—	—	3,205	20,082 tons.
Tobacco - - -	366	3,192 cwt.	225	700 cwt.	—	—	141	2,492 cwt.
Arrowroot - - -	31	34,046 lbs.	84	22,897 lbs.	53	—	—	11,149 lbs.
Sorghum, &c. - -	296	423 tons.	182	100 tons.	—	—	114	323 tons.
Sugar-cane - - -	3,917	31,818 cwt.	4,082	13,567 cwt.	165	—	—	18,251 cwt.
Hay - - - -	75,034	131,985 tons.	65,403	69,601 tons.	—	—	9,631	62,384 tons.
Vines (Wine) - -	3,906	460,321 gals.	4,504	342,674 gals.	598	—	—	117,647 gals.
Gardens and orchards	14,516	—	17,168	—	2,652	—	—	—
Green fodder - -	17,375	—	43,991	—	26,616	—	—	—
All other - - -	3,289	—	5,240	—	1,951	—	—	—

From this Table it will be seen that there was a very considerable diminution in all our principal agricultural products as compared with the previous year. This is accounted for from the fact that a great number of returns were received by me without any particulars, but merely with remarks to this effect,—*crops destroyed by floods.*

The value of importations of bread-stuffs for the year was 387,226*l.*, procured from the following sources:—

	£
Victoria - - - - - -	54,744
Tasmania - - - - - -	22,014
South Australia - - - - -	200,355
South Sea Islands - - - - -	62
New Zealand - - - - - -	44,610
United States - - - - - -	63,985
China - - - - - - -	12
Chili - - - - - - - -	14,44
	387,226

This amount is less than the previous year by 48,096*l.*

The following Table shows the importations of wheat and flour, with estimated value and quantity, and rate per head of the population, for the last five years :—

Year.	Population.	Imports.				Colonial Produce.				Value of Imports and Colonial Produce per head of Population.	Exports.			
		Wheat.	Flour and Bread.	Estimated Value.	Value of Imports per head of Population.	Wheat.	Average price per bushel in Sydney.	Estimated Value.	Value of Colonial Produce per head of Population.		Wheat.	Flour and Bread.	Estimated Value.	Value of Exports per head of Population.
		bushels.	tons.	£	£ s. d.	bushels.	s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£. s. d.	bushels.	tons.	£	s. d.
1866	431,412	1,093,081	29,832	854,381	1 19 7	2,226,027	6 6	723,459	1 13 6	3 13 1	71,890	152	23,691	1 1
1867	447,620	755,973	16,455	402,279	0 17 11	1,433,807	*5 0	358,452	0 16 0	1 13 11	78,480	112	23,580	1 0
1868	466,765	609,011	20,242	546,979	1 3 5	1,787,085	6 6	580,802	1 4 10	2 8 3	12,974	117	6,981	0 3
1869	485,356	777,408	16,301	435,322	0 17 11	3,200,959	6 0	960,287	1 19 6	2 17 5	31,499	6,055	92,365	3 9
1870	502,861	569,638	19,395	387,226	0 15 5	999,595	†5 3	262,393	0 10 5	1 5 10	22,914	5,163	75,880	3 0
Average of 5 years		761,022	20,445	525,237	1 2 10	1,929,494	5 10	577,078	1 4 10	2 7 8	43,551	2,320	44,499	1 10

* Ranged from 5*s.* to 5*s.* 3*d.*; calculations made on 5*s.*

† Ranged from 5*s.* to 5*s.* 6*d.*; calculations made on 5*s.* 3*d.*

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The quantity of maize exported during the year was 475,886 bushels, valued at 72,999*l.*

Liens on Growing Crops.

The number of liens on growing crops was 213, and the amount secured 10,045*l.*; though the number of these securities is in excess of the year 1869 by 62, the amount secured falls short by 3,627*l.*

Vineyards.

The number of acres under vine cultivation has increased from 3,906 in 1869 to 4,504 in 1870, or an excess of 598 acres.

The quantity of wine obtained was 342,674 gallons as against 460.321 gallons in the previous year. In addition to this quantity of wine there were 1,847 gallons of brandy. This was the production from 2,371 acres, while the yield of 533 acres was used for table purposes, and 1,599 acres were unproductive.

Live Stock.

The following statement will show the number of horses, horned cattle, sheep, and pigs, for the year ended 31st March, 1871, and the preceding year:—

Year ended 31 March, 1871.	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
	No.	No.	No.	No.
1870 - - - - -	280,304	1,795,904	14,989,923	175,924
1871 - - - - - -	337,597	2,195,096	16,308,585	243,066
Increase - -	57,293	399,192	1,318,662	67,142

Mortgages on Live Stock.

There were 294 mortgages on live stock, on which the sum of 840,584*l.* was secured, the security consisting of 1,281,340 sheep, 147,119 horned cattle, and 3.884 horses. In the previous year the sum advanced was 3[illegible]4,819*l.* in excess of the amount above named The discharges of mortgages on this kind of security numbered 95, and the amount discharged was 435,762*l.*

Liens on Wool.

The amount secured on liens on wool was 371,231*l.*, for which sum the wool on 3,411,469 sheep was security. The amount secured for the year 1870 was less by 160,546*l.* than for the year 1869.

PART VI.

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL.

The coin and bullion on 31st December, 1870, amounted to 1,447,912*l.*, being an increase of 55,668*l.* on the previous year.

Paper Currency in Circulation.

The paper in circulation was 742,490*l.* as against 787,312*l.* in 1869, being a decrease of 44,822*l.*

Branch Royal Mint.

The total value of gold dust or bullion received for coinage at the Mint during the year was 1,218,730*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*, obtained from the following sources:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
New South Wales - -	552,743	16	8
Victoria - - - -	131,055	16	9
New Zealand - - -	218,754	16	3
Queensland - - - -	301,719	14	2
Coin - - - - -	14,456	0	11
	£1,218,730	4	8

As compared with the previous year this shows a decrease of 104,757*l.* The total value of coin and bullion issued was 1,243,298*l.*

There was a decrease of coin issued to the amount of 59,000*l.*, and of bullion 17,090*l.* The revenue of the Mint was 11,559*l.*, which is a decrease of 3,729*l.* on the year 1869.

The total value of coin and bullion issued from the Mint since the 14th May, 1855 (the date on which it was opened) to 31st December, 1870, was 29,257,842*l.*

Railways.

The length of each of the railway lines, and number of passengers conveyed by them respectively, are shown by the following Table:—

Lines.	No. of Miles.	No. of Passengers.
South - - - - -	134	624,756
West - - - - -	98	178,026
Richmond - - -	16	36,300
North - - - - -	87	218,284
	335	1,057,366

The total weight of goods carried on the various lines was 766.523 tons. The amount received from the traffic on passengers, goods, and other sources, was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
From passengers - - - -	109,850	12	2
„ goods - - - - -	189,288	7	7
Rents and miscellaneous receipts -	8,003	4	1
	£307,142	3	10

NEW SOUTH WALES.

After the deduction of working expenses, the net earnings amounted to 103,082*l.*, being an increase of 12,956*l.* on the year 1869.

Electric Telegraphs.

The number of miles traversed by the telegraph wire was 5,247, giving an addition of 194 miles on the year 1869.

The messages transmitted numbered 173,812, showing an increase of 28,442 on the previous year.

The total cost of construction has been 195,544*l.*

The revenue for the year, from 86 stations, amounted to 32,037*l.*, while the expenditure was 30,653*l.*

Post Offices.

There were 562 Post Offices at the close of the year 1870, being an increase of 41 on the previous year. The number of persons employed was 690, being an addition of 48. The total number of letters transmitted through the Post Offices was 7,083,500, of newspapers 3,814,700, and of packets 157,700.

The following Table affords a comparison of the two last years:—

Year.	Letters Posted for Delivery.			Total.
	Foreign.	Inland.	Town.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
1869	1,067,251	5,554,950	521,433	7,143,634
1870	1,103,200	5,451,500	528,800	7,083,500
Increase	35,949	—	7,367	—
Decrease	—	103,450	—	60,134

The number of newspapers conveyed by the post was 3,814,700, of which 1,206,600 were foreign, and 2,608,100 inland.

The increase in the number of foreign newspapers was 94,368, and of inland newspapers 126,779.

Packets, &c., show a decrease of 334.

The receipts were 84,440*l.*, and expenditure 86,751*l.*

Money Orders.

The number of offices for the issue of money orders has increased from 164 to 175.

The total number of orders issued was 65,743, of the value of 289,325*l.*

PART VII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The amount of money expended on the public works of the Colony, during the year 1870 and that preceding it, will be seen by the following Table:—

Nature of Work.	1869.	1870.	Increase.	Decrease.
Railways—	£	£	£	£
Lines open for traffic -	150,417	121,939	—	28,478
Extensions not open - -	456,666	384,558	—	72,108
Electric Telegraphs - -	20,676	6,399	—	14,277
Roads and Bridges - - -	148,300	132,002	—	16,298
Harbours and Rivers - -	76,731	63,593	—	13,138
Fitz-Roy Dry Dock - - -	4,548	2,082	—	2,466
Buildings, &c. - - - -	95,186	67,939	—	27,247
Total - - - -	952,524	778,512	—	174,012

Meteorology.

It appears that the number of days on which rain fell was 178, and that the total rainfall for the year was 64·215 inches. In the locality of the Kurrajong the quantity of rain which fell is recorded as 111·800 inches.

Insolvencies.

The number of insolvencies was 476, being less by 54 than the previous year.

The amount of liabilities was 671,870*l.*, being 188,725*l.* in excess of the year 1869. The assets are represented as 394,006*l.*, which shows a deficiency of 277,864*l.*

Publicans' Licences.

Licences issued to publicans during the year numbered 2,187, being 5 less than the previous year. The revenue derived from this source, including billiard and bagatelle licences, has increased from 65,687*l.* in 1869 to 66,095*l.* in 1870.

Volunteer Corps.

The full strength of the Volunteers on 31st December, 1870, including the Naval Brigade, was 3,436 as against 3,048 in the previous year. The cost of maintenance has increased from 10,417*l.* to 13,135*l.*

Political Franchise.

The number of registered electors on the rolls of the various electoral districts was 124,106.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The estimated number of electors on gold-fields who vote on production of their mining or business licences was 11,400, making a total of 135,506.

Land Sales.

The total area of land sold in the settled districts of the Colony, otherwise than conditionally, during the year 1870 was 23,750 acres, as against 40,905 in the year 1869, the decrease being 17,155 acres.

The number of acres purchased in the pastoral districts was 70,622, which is also a decrease of 53,353 acres on 1869; the general total being 94,372 acres.

There were 4,471 selections made of land sold conditionally, comprising an area of 329,318 acres. Here also is a decrease on the previous year of 68,010 acres.

The total amount received during the year for the sale of land, including conditional purchases and interest thereon, was 250,842*l*.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) E. G. WARD,

Registrar-General.

STATISTICAL VIEW OF THE PROGRESS OF THE COLONY OF NEW SOUTH WALES FROM THE YEAR 1861 TO 1870, INCLUSIVE.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Schools.		Commitments for Trial.	Convictions.	Mills.	Manufactories, Works, &c.	Number of Acres under Crop.	Live Stock.				Coal raised.		Land Sales.	
					Schools.	Number of Scholars.						Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Amount realized.
																tons.	£	acres.	£
1861	*358,278	14,681	3,222	5,343	849	37,874	820	437	184	788	297,575	233,220	2,271,923	5,615,054	146,091	342,067	218,820	189,936	222,594
1862	367,495	15,434	3,326	6,524	925	42,211	879	514	181	859	302,138½	273,389	2,620,383	6,145,651	125,541	476,522	305,234	67,292 †357,280	216,988
1863	378,934	15,679	3,314	6,653	976	46,810	887	497	180	1,768	307,035	262,554	2,032,522	7,790,969	135,899	433,889	236,230	92,016 †259,369	192,113
1864	392,589	16,881	3,480	6,445	1,022	48,427	975	590	174	2,084	318,854	284,567	1,924,119	8,271,520	164,154	549,012	270,171	58,216 †165,616	112,719
1865	411,388	17,283	3,578	6,596	1,069	53,453	1,123	686	175	2,132	378,254½	282,587	1,961,905	8,132,511	146,901	585,525	274,303	101,350 †151,450	213,241
1866	431,412	16,950	3,462	7,361	1,155	59,594	1,255	770	159	2,389	451,225‡	278,437	1,771,809	11,562,155	137,915	774,238	324,049	109,177 †358,652	261,590
1867	447,620	18,317	3,426	8,631	1,180	63,183	1,180	702	188	2,274	413,164	280,201	1,728,427	13,909,574	173,168	770,012	342,655	119,044 †232,176	264,660
1868	466,765	18,485	3,736	7,225	1,254	66,835	1,006	601	181	3,562	434,756‡	280,818	1,761,411	15,080,625	176,901	954,231	417,809	149,945 †239,516	265,250
1869	485,356	19,243	3,799	6,691	1,304	71,523	1,112	682	183	4,497	482,324½	280,304	1,795,904	14,989,923	175,924	919,774	346,146	161,890 †397,328	319,613
1870	502,861	19,648	3,848	6,558	1,381	74,503	1,037	601	187	6,882	426,976	337,597	2,195,096	16,308,585	243,066	868,564	316,836	94,373 †329,318	250,843

Year.	Shipping.				Exports, the Produce of the Colony.‡									Value of Total Imports.‡	Value of Total Exports.‡	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Wool.		Tallow.		Oil, &c. Value.	Gold.§		Coal.				General.	Loans.	Ordinary.	Loans.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.						
					lbs.	£	cwt.	£	£	oz.	£	tons.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1861	1,327	366,236	1,391	379,460	12,745,891	1,396,426	60,638	60,816	—	488,293	1,890,908	207,780	160,965	6,391,555	5,594,839	1,448,610	394,457	1,540,005	433,224
1862	1,493	454,837	1,568	467,356	13,482,139	1,283,818	71,281	104,030	—	699,566	2,715,037	308,782	245,422	9,334,645	7,102,562	1,628,885	644,285	1,608,810	526,708
1863	1,494	479,827	1,603	511,373	14,791,849	1,262,274	17,709	31,221	—	605,722	2,361,949	298,038	220,181	8,319,576	6,936,839	1,550,047	649,116	2,064,299	537,795
1864	1,849	607,168	1,842	617,057	25,827,917‖	2,294,615‖	61,056	100,654	—	758,109	2,952,471	372,466	212,488	10,135,708‖	9,037,832‖	1,693,792¶	290,983	1,862,245	463,656
1865	1,912	635,888	2,120	690,294	29,858,791‖	2,283,560‖	75,810	122,270	—	682,521	2,647,668	382,968	214,158	10,635,507‖	9,563,818‖	1,938,656**	298,578	1,760,516**	554,278
1866	2,099	730,354	2,259	784,381	36,980,685‖	2,830,348‖	27,726	51,826	285	751,700	2,924,891	540,905	300,588	9,403,192‖	9,913,839‖	2,833,459**	419,720	2,125,414**	887,157
1867	1,868	646,970	2,104	726,721	21,708,902	1,711,322	37,211	63,648	369	660,619	2,586,044	473,357	253,259	6,599,804	6,880,715	2,034,490**	534,966	2,249,521**	686,112
1868	2,073	724,193	2,218	776,449	25,721,632	1,879,751	93,901	144,377	630	487,600	1,895,929	548,036	292,201	8,051,377	7,192,904	2,476,700**	1,617,112	2,636,303**	640,536
1869	2,022	741,369	2,236	833,248	51,269,672‖	3,162,522‖	96,667	167,536	4,515	641,069	2,489,145	595,553	298,195	8,392,753‖	9,933,442‖	2,590,217**	1,073,292	2,649,329**	616,476
1870	1,858	689,820	2,066	771,942	47,440,610‖	2,741,141‖	134,262	223,787	3,674	410,547	1,585,736	578,389	267,681	7,757,281‖	7,990,038	2,490,203**	85,106	2,638,264**	660,089

* The Census was taken on 7th April, 1861, population 350,860.

† Lands conditionally sold under the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861." Price of Land in 1825, 7*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* per acre. The minimum price of land was 5*s.* per acre from 1832 to 1840; 12*s.* per acre, 1840–2. (20*s.* in Port Philip, in 1841.) 20*s.* per acre from 1843 to present time. In 1822, 3, 4, 5, the accounts were kept in Spanish dollars and British money; generally in Spanish dollars. Transportation ceased in 1840. The Return of the Revenue and Expenditure previous to 1850 cannot be accurately ascertained. In addition to the above expenditure, the Imperial Government paid large sums for the maintenance of convicts and military. Gold discovered in May, 1851. The Loans Expenditure previous to 1853 cannot be shown.

‡ Exclusive of the overland traffic.

§ Includes the gold received at the Mint from other Colonies, and converted into bars and coin.

‖ Inclusive of the overland traffic.

¶ Includes 270,543*l.* proceeds of Treasury Bills, issued under the Act of Council 27th Vict., No. 8, to cover deficit of 1863 and previous years.

** The Revenue and Expenditure columns include "Church and School Lands Revenue," "Police Reward Fund," "Police Superannuation Fund," and "Superannuation Fund," 27th Vict., No. 11.

QUEENSLAND.

No. 14.

QUEENSLAND.

No. 14.

(No Report received.)

A Statistical View of Queensland, since its separation from New South Wales, is printed in place of the Report.

VICTORIA.

No. 15.

VICTORIA.

No. 15.

(No Report received.)

TASMANIA.

No. 16.

TASMANIA.

No. 16.

Legislative Council Office, Hobart Town,
August, 1871.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward to you, together with this Report, the statistics of this Colony for the year 1870.

In previous years I have experienced great difficulty in obtaining the materials required for the compilation of the annual volume. Last year I mentioned one Government officer who had been specially negligent in this respect.

I am sorry to record that this year the same officer has failed, after repeated applications, to furnish me with the necessary returns (namely, those for the gaols, &c., Launceston), and I have thus been compelled to omit them.

The officer thus referred to has since retired from the public service.

It is pleasing to be able, on the other hand, to report that a great improvement has taken place in the rendering of accounts of the road trusts and municipalities. They have been more correct, and have generally been sent in more promptly than in any former year. I have also been gratified to observe, on several occasions, indications of a greater readiness to supply information,—a proof of the increased importance which is now attached to the official statistics of this Colony.

A change having lately been made in the municipal officers at Sorell, it was found that proper records had not been kept in that district of certain particulars required for the purposes of these statistics; and the returns relating to municipalities, cases dealt with by magistrates, and litigation, are therefore incomplete in as far as relates to the municipality of Sorell.

QUEENSLAND.

REPORTS EXHIBITING THE PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

STATISTICAL VIEW OF QUEENSLAND, SINCE SEPARATION FROM NEW SOUTH WALES.

POPULATION.

Year.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Immigration (excess over Emigration).	Population on 31st December.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1860	1,236	278	478	—	28,056
1861	1,423	320	500	—	34,367
1862	1,702	570	797	9,805	45,077
1863	2,221	774	1,275	14,394	61,640
1864	2,883	951	1,446	10,959	74,036
1865	3,532	1,074	1,733	11,969	87,804
1866	4,127	1,068	2,362	8,396	96,201
1867	4,476	935	1,745	917	99,849
1868	4,460	863	1,799	4,287	107,427
1869	4,654	903	1,761	*423	109,897
1870	4,905	879	1,645	2,410	115,567

MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL PROGRESS.

Year.	Education.		Mechanics' Institutes.		Charitable Institutions.		Year.
	Schools.	Scholars.	Sub-scribers.	Volumes in Library.	No.	Persons Relieved.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	
1860	41	1,890	—	—	6	397	1860
1861	43	2,438	536	4,890	6	491	1861
1862	54	3,060	779	4,232	6	648	1862
1863	72	5,452	797	5,369	6	1,075	1863
1864	89	6,858	753	6,692	7	1,447	1864
1865	101	9,091	1,133	6,807	7	1,626	1865
1866	129	10,955	1,216	8,916	12	2,546	1866
1867	148	11,393	1,072	9,068	14	1,763	1867
1868	167	12,628	816	10,044	15	1,840	1868
1869	192	13,472	1,304	15,964	16	2,548	1869
1870	173	18,043	1,271	17,633	16	2,611	1870

PRODUCTION.

Year.	Crown Lands.				Land under Crop.			Live Stock.				Mills, Manufactories, Works, &c.	Mining. Gold.		Mining. Copper.		Mining. Coal.		Year.
	Quantity Sold.	Amount Realized.	No. of Squatting Runs.	Area Leased.	Total No. of Acres under Cultivation.	Under Cotton.	Under Sugar-cane.	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.		Quantity Raised.	Value.	Quantity of Ore Raised.	Value.	Quantity Raised.	Value.	
	acres.	£	No.	acres.	No.	acres.	acres.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	ozs.	£	tons.	£	tons.	£	
1860	23,587	37,978	1,300	41,027,200	3,353	14	—	23,504	432,890	3,166,802	7,147	13	—	—	—	—	12,327	9,244	1860
1861	56,849	94,063	1,727	51,811,200	4,440	395	—	28,983	560,196	4,093,381	7,465	15	—	—	49	1,450	14,212	9,920	1861
1862	67,873	106,019	1,926	57,200,000	6,067	392	—	36,532	637,296	4,553,353	7,066	20	—	—	—	—	24,067	19,253	1862
1863	62,948	108,828	2,545	74,286,080	11,262	2,021	—	45,805	880,392	5,672,400	7,351	23	8,000	30,000	1,100	30,000	2,400	1,500	1863
1864	139,814	210,725	2,849	84,729,760	12,006	479	93	40,678	882,073	5,665,334	12,066	34	—	—	2,000	60,000	25,000	15,000	1864
1865	145,799	224,403	3,236	98,634,880	14,414	477	449	51,091	848,346	6,594,966	14,888	44	—	—	1,333	40,000	30,000	18,750	1865
1866	113,598	141,325	3,470	106,123,520	24,433	2,884	607	52,311	919,414	7,278,778	13,961	79	21,590	81,111	3,168	95,000	39,316	21,049	1866
1867	41,765	49,837	3,619	171,093,920	31,559	8,149	1,995	53,143	940,354	8,665,757	18,142	90	48,213	170,090	‡5,140	‡84,200	17,988	9,566	1867
1868	57,070	61,085	3,969	179,696,950	39,321	11,453	3,396	66,878	968,279	8,921,784	26,185	25	22,112	429,907	7,816	§73,020	19,611	11,519	1868
1869	33,287	32,638	3,560	171,903,692	47,034	14,426	5,165	71,530	994,600	8,646,243	29,466	250	†130,944	451,352	6,310	§76,230	11,120	5,907	1869
1870	83,258	76,563	2,223	106,492,334	52,210	14,674	6,341	83,358	1,076,630	8,163,818	30,992	472	†100,634	351,412	10,194	§80,795	22,639	12,311	1870

INTERCHANGE.

Year.	Postal.					Shipping.				Exports (Seaward) the Produce of Queensland.												Imports.	Exports.	Railways.		Electric Telegraph.		Year.
	Letters.	Newspapers.	Packets.	Money Orders Issued and Paid.	Amount of Transactions.	Inwards.		Outwards.		Wool.		Tallow.		Gold.		Copper.		Cotton.		Live Stock.		Meat.		Timber (value).	Coal (value).	Total Value.	Total Value.	Miles open.	No. of Passengers.	Miles of Wire.	No. of Messages.	
						No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	No.	Value.	Fresh and Preserved (value).	Extract (value).								
	No.	No.	No.	No.	£	No.	tons.	No.	tons.	lbs.	£	tons.	£	oz.	£	cwt.	£	lbs.	£	No.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	No.	No.	No.	No.	
1860	199,168	149,236	2,956	—	—	210	45,736	183	39,503	5,007,167	444,188	640	25,628	4,127	14,576	—	50	—	—	—	510	5,356	—	2,442	646	742,023	523,477	—	—	—	—	1860
1861	395,861	315,692	3,555	—	—	251	57,377	234	51,827	6,994,033	613,074	1,247	48,009	1,077	3,928	360	644	—	4	3,103	1,845	1,198	—	2,629	1,870	967,951	709,599	—	—	169	5,678	1861
1862	1,027,624	610,320	7,758	574	2,238	330	77,312	305	71,981	8,063,612	627,182	1,503	50,979	189	625	5,360	10,332	14,344	1,423	1,320	1,467	510	—	3,066	3,642	1,323,509	793,236	—	—	169	16,833	1862
1863	898,716	776,198	13,878	3,698	15,094	389	104,421	353	98,844	10,669,044	776,776	883	30,716	3,936	14,802	173	296	31,557	3,056	659	1,469	258	—	5,482	4,279	1,713,263	888,381	—	—	221	19,219	1863
1864	870,807	874,118	11,803	6,598	27,736	431	129,687	396	116,702	14,006,789	1,037,663	1,137	32,999	22,037	83,292	29	146	38,730	4,186	274	1,208	229	—	8,039	141	2,267,954	1,247,054	—	—	298	27,246	1864
1865	1,166,241	779,436	17,160	9,841	41,592	497	173,227	488	167,153	12,251,841	885,299	1,940	57,155	25,338	92,938	4,424	18,440	145,820	12,197	2,175	6,404	765	—	8,383	3	2,505,559	1,153,464	21	17,297	1,131	47 697	1865
1866	1,327,365	802,929	31,764	12,158	51,708	569	197,665	556	195,991	14,346,239	987,659	1,300	53,597	22,916	85,561	8,820	33,918	207,272	19,618	9,139	38,948	14,468	2,800	13,625	32	2,467,907	1,366,491	50	38,569	1,565	64,372	1866
1867	1,897,779	1,413,447	46,686	16,050	74,042	477	149,876	459	145,301	21,554,557	1,462,209	2,733	90,293	49,091	189,248	17,920	66,038	412,941	26,631	461,695	221,533	3,298	23,150	17,802	—	1,747,735	2,198,609	136	18,392	1,752	63,412	1867
1868	2,158.581	1,443,742	52,723	19,310	87,375	511	132,943	478	127,871	18,906,778	1,057,211	3,706	122,544	165,801	593,516	21,769	77,136	1,809,628	68,929	494	2,160	7,903	30,165	16,578	25	1,899,119	2,107,437	160	24,615	1,811	67,111	1868
1869	1,704,370	1,087,345	47,908	21,838	96,020	548	145,213	527	142,802	22,386,650	1,098,149	5,240	166,039	138,221	523,045	24,535	87,268	1,118,899	51,217	2,170	9,902	5,660	30,623	30,241	202	1,804,578	2,166,806	206	26,178	2,182	70,112	1869
1870	1,662,677	1,183,007	42,341	19,923	85,295	476	133,292	456	127,992	20,695,627	1,026,061	4,818	167,230	136,773	489,539	18,505	63,298	1,630,755	73,437	1,757	4,119	16,303	46,720	19,937	—	1,577,339	2,533,732	206	35,853	2,221	81,483	1870

ACCUMULATION.

Year.	Banks.						Savings Banks.		Year.
	Total Liabilities on 31st December.	Note Circulation.	Deposits.	Total Assets on 31st December.	Coin.	Advances.	No. of Depositors.	Balance to Credit on 31st December.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	No.	£	
1860	332,173	42,765	286,917	574,661	63,843	490,861	163	7,545	1860
1861	390,238	63,104	322,310	730,917	84,916	618,315	242	12,192	1861
1862	442,245	87,103	341,155	888,879	105,268	751,678	489	20,562	1862
1863	598,941	107,634	472,765	1,235,961	128,632	1,055,989	655	26,789	1863
1864	928,409	137,799	757,153	1,825,782	178,503	1,571,188	876	30,662	1864
1865	1,000,924	181,615	770,912	2,281,461	193,017	2,023,207	1,798	56,516	1865
1866	905,668	126,957	750,604	2,225,436	218,656	1,906,579	2,466	86,499	1866
1867	1,025.286	125,272	868,816	2,000,558	307,907	1,586,033	3,130	123,158	1867
1868	1,214,586	167,568	1,018,566	2,051,227	333,062	1,583,817	4,276	220.662	1868
1869	1,138,639	152,865	961,612	2,002,822	279,238	1,576,747	5,327	300,522	1869
1870	1,092,053	146,921	923,556	1,725,494	264,872	1,306,769	5,821	332,843	1870

FINANCE.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Loans Authorized.	Expenditure on Loan Account.	Land Orders. Issued.	Land Orders. Negotiated.	Year.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1860	178,589	161,503	—	19,384	—	—	1860
1861	238,238	255,180	123,800	43,826	18,575	13,337	1861
1862	295,286	317,026	—	50,290	90,383	51,144	1862
1863	295,215	355,791	707,436	48,610	166,471	95,607	1863
1864	369,425	439,034	1,019,000	401,421	114,718	133,031	1864
1865	472,451	459,025	1,170,950	685,246	227,796	192,541	1865
1866	490,269	594,130	300,000	965,346	151,154	151,281	1866
1867	610,860	661,795	—	693,428	32,726	58,788	1867
1868	724,854	742,207	—	207,845	41,086	55,308	1868
1869	738,218	761,594	—	117,077	52,541	34,710	1869
1870	743,058	764,491	765,600	155,256	25,262	43,480	1870

THE Colony of Queensland comprises the north-eastern portion of the Continent of Australia—its northern extremity is Cape York, and its southern (on the coast) Point Danger. The one hundred and thirty-eighth degree of longitude is its boundary on the west.

The area of the Colony is six hundred and seventy-eight thousand five hundred square miles, and its sea-board extends two thousand two hundred and fifty miles.

THE following are the principal townships, with their population, according to the Census of 1868:—

Brisbane (the Capital)	14,265
Rockhampton	5,226
Ipswich	5,021
Maryborough	2,929
Toowoomba	2,900
Warwick	1,728
Dalby	1,224
Bowen	1,144
Clermont	821
Drayton	807
Gayndah	746

To face page 124.

* Excess of departures over arrivals.
† Quantity sent down by escort.

‡ Includes 5,000 tons ore, producing 1,000 tons smelted copper, valued at £80,000; and 140 tons ore, valued at £4,200.
§ Value of copper refined during the year.

HENRY SCOTT,
Registrar-General.

Before proceeding with my remarks on the different returns contained in this volume, I desire very briefly to allude to the Despatch (No. 30, of March 24, 1870) of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies—a copy of which you did me the honour to forward to me—referring, in very gratifying terms, to the manner in which my duty as Government Statistician of this Colony has been discharged. Such an acknowledgment on the part of Her Majesty's Government of my services in that capacity is valuable, not only as a recognition of past labours, but as an encouragement for the future in the prosecution of a tedious and toilsome work, extending over about seven and a half or eight months out of every year, which has been performed for the past five years as an addition to other official duties, without any increase of emolument.

I.—*Population.*

Population.

The last census was taken on the 7th February, 1870. Adding to the numbers on that date the increase by excess of births over deaths up to the 31st December, and deducting the decrease by excess of emigration over immigration, the estimated population on December 31, 1870, is found to have been—males, 53,464; females, 47,301; total, 100,765.

Immigration and emigration.

The number of persons who arrived in the Colony during the year 1870 was 5,982, and the number of those who departed from it, 5,888; giving an addition to the population of 94 from this source. In 1869 there was, in this way, a decrease of population of 638; in 1868, an increase of 723; in 1867, a decrease of 466; and in 1866, an increase of 690; so that in the last five years there has been an alternate increase and decrease.

The number of immigrants introduced into the Colony under the auspices of the Board of Immigration in 1870 was 342, of whom 301 were from Germany, 21 from England, 18 from Ireland, and 2 from Scotland.

II.—*Trade, Commerce, and Navigation.*

Imports.

The imports in 1870 are stated to have been of the value of 792,916*l.*, being at the rate of 7*l.* 17*s.* 4½*d.* per head of the estimated population at the end of the year, against a total in 1869 of 975,412*l.*, and a rate per head of 9*l.* 12*s.* 0¼*d.*

They were therefore less in value by the sum of 182,496*l.* than in the preceding year; the decrease being at the rate of 18·71 per cent.

It may be well to compare the imports for the last five years. They were as follows:—

Years.	Total Value.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−).
	£	£
1866 - - -	882,107	+ 119,732
1867 - - -	856,348	− 25,759
1868 - - -	845,152	− 11,196
1869 - - -	975,412	+ 130,260
1870 - - -	792,916	− 182,496

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It appears that with the exception of 1866 and 1869 (the amount in the latter year being quite unusual), there has been a continuous decrease during the whole period.

The import trade with the different countries in the last *four* years (there being no means of ascertaining the distribution before 1867) was—

Countries.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	299,892	265,396	408,188	282,342
Victoria	432,347	458,073	459,555	396,330
New South Wales	49,715	46,099	34,764	38,988
Queensland	—	135	3,705	6,890
South Australia	8,875	6,225	8,640	2,150
New Zealand	5,058	2,820	2,115	7,395
Mauritius	54,051	59,367	47,585	57,106
Calcutta	—	455	—	—
Valparaiso	—	2,760	—	—
Cape of Good Hope	—	—	480	—
China	6,410	3,602	4,820	—
Hamburg	—	—	—	290
South Seas	—	220	5,560	1,425
Total	856,348	845,152	975,412	792,916

The decrease, it will be observed, is principally in the trade with Victoria; that with the United Kingdom having been greater than in 1868, and not very much less than in 1867. With Queensland and New Zealand (from Mauritius the only goods imported are sugar and gunny bags) the trade increased; with New South Wales (although larger than in 1869) and South Australia it decreased. With China we had no transactions in imported goods in 1870, the whole of our supply of teas having been received indirectly, the great bulk through Victoria.

The figures in the above Table, reduced to their centesimal proportions, give the following results:—

Countries.	Proportion per cent. of total Imports.			
	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
United Kingdom	35·02	31·40	41·85	35·61
Victoria	50·49	54·20	47·11	49·98
New South Wales	5·80	5·45	3·57	4·92
Queensland	—	0·74	0·38	0·87
South Australia	1·04*	0·02	0·88	0·27
New Zealand	0·59	0·33	0·22	0·93
Mauritius	6·31	7·02	4·88	7·20
Calcutta	—	0·05	—	—
Valparaiso	—	0·33	—	—
Cape of Good Hope	—	—	0·05	—
China	0·75	0·43	0·49	—
Hamburg	—	—	—	0·04
South Seas	—	0·03	0·57	0·18

* In the previous year's report (1869) this percentage appears opposite Queensland, having by inadvertence been placed on the wrong line.

The proportions, in 1870, as between the United Kingdom and Victoria, stood very nearly as they were in 1867. As regards Queensland, New Zealand, and Mauritius, the ratio in 1870 is the

greatest in the period; but as regards New South Wales and South Australia, it is lower than the prevailing rate.

At the respective ports of Hobart Town and Launceston the imports were in the last five years:—

	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
	£	£	£	£	£
Hobart Town -	469,255	495,030	439,540	443,735	404,755
Launceston - -	412,852	361,318	405,612	531,677	388,161

The imports at Launceston in 1869 were swelled to an unusual amount by the items—railway plant, 88,045*l.*; specie, gold and silver, 36,000*l.* These being excluded, the value of the ordinary imports in 1869 would still be greater by 19,471*l.* than in 1870. The value in 1870 was less than in any year (with the exception of 1867) of the period. At Hobart Town the imports in 1870 were, without any exception, the least in value of any year in the whole period.

Exports.

Turning now to the exports, we find that their value in 1870 is stated to have been 648,709*l.*, of which 625,505*l.*, or 96·42 per cent. were the produce of the Colony, and 23,204*l.*, or 3·58 per cent. the produce of other countries. On the total value in 1870 there was a decrease, as compared with that in the preceding year, of 178,223*l.*, or 21·55 per cent.

The exports in 1870 were at the rate of 6*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* per head, against 8*l.* 2*s.* 9½*d.* in 1869, and 9*l.* 2*s.* 10½*d.* in 1868.

For the last five years the exports were:—

Years.	Total Value.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−).
	£	£
1866 - - -	834,606	− 46,359
1867 - - -	790,494	− 44,112
1868 - - -	920,820	+ 130,326
1869 - - -	826,932	− 93,888
1870 - - -	648,709	− 178,223

Except in the one year 1868, there has been a continuous decrease as compared with 1866—that in 1870 being the largest in the period.

The export trade with the different countries in the same four* years was as follows:—

Countries.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	378,532	435,523	331,748	253,200
Victoria - - - - -	223,879	277,797	344,523	267,382
New South Wales - - -	70,157	111,631	82,426	83,542
Queensland - - - -	14,076	23,001	8,788	9,281
South Australia - - -	26,260	16,094	16,744	8,119
New Zealand - - - -	74,057	50,764	41,272	25,730
Mauritius - - - -	2,533	5,630	821	1,370
Guam - - - - -	—	380	610	85
Total - - - -	790,494	920,820	826,932	648,709

* Four years are taken instead of five, for the reason assigned when treating of the imports.

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There was a decrease, it will be seen, in our exports to all countries except New South Wales and Mauritius, although, as regards Victoria and New South Wales, the value was greater in the last than in the first year. I do not exclude Queensland from the former category, because 1869 being the only year in which the amount was smaller than in 1870, and the difference in favour of the latter year being very slight, it cannot be inferred that there is yet any real improvement.

In centesimal proportions, the distribution of the exports in the last four years was—

Countries.	Proportion per cent. of total Exports.			
	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
United Kingdom - - -	47·89	47·30	40·12	39·03
Victoria - - - - -	28·32	30·17	41·66	41·22
New South Wales - - -	8·88	12·12	9·97	12·88
Queensland - - - -	1·78	2·50	1·06	1·43
South Australia - - -	3·32	1·75	2·02	1·25
New Zealand - - - -	9·49	5·51	5·00	3·97
Mauritius - - - -	0·32	0·61	0·10	0·21
Guam - - - - - -	—	0·04	0·07	0·01

Comparing the export trade at the two ports for the five years, we have—

	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
	£	£	£	£	£
Hobart Town -	460,735	465,990	418,810	406,960	346,504
Launceston - -	373,871	324,504	502,010	419,972	302,205

The decrease in 1870, as compared with 1869, was, at Hobart Town, 14·85 per cent.; at Launceston, 28·04 per cent.

On referring to the decennial Table of Exports which follows the Customs returns, it will be seen that the only articles on which there was an increase in value in 1870 were oats, barley, hides, skins and leather, and hops. On bark the decrease was 1,294*l.*; on bran and pollard, 1,756*l.*; on butter and cheese, 6,579*l.*; on flour, 16,327*l.*; on fruit, preserved and green, 14,020*l.*; on wheat, 29,826*l.*; on horses, 2,853*l.*; on sheep, 1,550*l.*; on sperm oil, 27,940*l.*; on timber, 5,350*l.*; on vegetables, 27,207*l.*; on wool, 56,807*l.* These decreases were not caused by any fall in the prices of goods (except as regards bark, in which there was an increase in quantity of 459 tons, and perhaps timber), for the quantities show a corresponding diminution. In wool, our staple production, there was a decrease in quantity of 1,460,170 lbs. as against 1869. The export of wool was smaller than in any year of the last decennium, with the exception of 1861.

The trade in butter and cheese seems to be declining. There was no year in the decade in which it was so small as in 1870. In 1861 the value was 10,739*l.* It reached 26,570*l.* in 1865; and from that time it has receded.

The quantity of flour exported has never been so small in any of the ten years, except in 1865, when, however, the increased price made the total value greater than in 1870.

The trade in fruit and jam was, apparently, somewhat smaller than the average of the last four years, but considerably in advance of what it was at the beginning of the decade.

There were only three years—namely, 1864, 1865, and 1866—in which the export of wheat was smaller than in 1870. That of oats in the latter year was a good average; and that of barley was the largest of any of the ten years, except 1868. The leather and skin trade, judged by the value, is in a flourishing condition—1870 showing the maximum in the ten years. The production of hops is steadily advancing, the export in 1861 having been only 43,646 lbs., and in 1870, 365,489 lbs.; but it is feared that in consequence of the low price which has prevailed for some time past, and the duty imposed by some of the other colonies, this increase will not continue.

The export of horses and sheep has been constantly declining, and threatens to cease to be an item of any importance. That of pigs shows a better result; the number in 1861 having been only 251, and 1870, 3,632, valued at 5,067*l.*

The export of sperm oil was exceeded in 1869, 1868, 1864, 1862, and 1861. Whale fishing, as an industry, cannot, therefore, be said to be in a satisfactory condition.

The value of timber exported in 1870 was less than in any of the other years of the period; but it is probable (seeing that on some descriptions there was an increase) that a reduction in price has had some share in producing that result, although this does not appear in the return of prices.

The export of wool in 1870 shows a decrease of 1,076,871 lbs. upon the average of the five preceding years, 1865–9, which is 5,223,784. The decrease was therefore at the rate of 20·57 per cent. The cause is generally attributed to fluke, and the enormous increase of rabbits on the sheep-runs.

The following Table shows the exports for the last three years of certain articles which, not being of sufficient importance, or else not having established a permanent place in the trade, were not included in the decennial return:—

	Quantities.			Value.		
	1868.	1869.	1870.	1868.	1869.	1870.
				£	£	£
Coals - - - - - tons	180	1,270	1,614	120	810	980
Gold - - - - - oz.	—	—	2,141	—	—	7,475
Hay - - - - - tons	354½	152	129½	1,620	870	1,025
Malt - - - - - bushels	5,960	8,283	11,160	2,670	3,235	4,185
Malt liquor - - - galls.	9,170*	9,870	8,163	1,095	1,180	957
Oysters and crayfish - - pkgs.	273	275	309	600	1,190	1,010
Seeds, plants, and trees ditto	2,178	1,375	1,205	3,560	2,195	2,095
Stone, building - - tons	2,186	2,642½	1,423	4,400	4,980	2,545

* Also 200 dozen pints, value 30*l.*

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In the official Report of the Intercolonial Exhibition held at Sydney in 1870 there are some observations which bear upon our export trade, and it may therefore be useful to reproduce them here for the benefit of our producers and exporters.

"*Wheat.* The wheat most esteemed is that from Adelaide. Nothing produced in this Colony quite comes up to it in quality, but then there is a compensation in quantity, inasmuch as the average yield is greater here than in South Australia. Our best wheat districts are in the neighbourhood of Young, Barrowa, Murrumburrah, Bathurst, Carcoar, Cowra, Wagga Wagga, Orange, New England, and Maneroo. Taking as a standard Adelaide wheat at 5*s.* a bushel, that grown in these localities will realize in Sydney about 2*d.* less. Next in excellence is reckoned the grain from the districts of Mudgee, Yass, Queenbeyan, Gunning, Braidwood, and Goulburn, which generally averages about 4*d.* a bushel below the Adelaide wheat. Victorian is classed as about equal in quality with the best of New South Wales wheat, and Californian a shade below it. Taking the same standard of value, Tasmanian wheat realizes about 4*s.* 6*d.*, and that from New Zealand, which however is very unequal in quality, ranges from about 4*s.* to 4*s.* 3*d.*"

"*Barley.* The Colony furnished only one exhibitor of this grain, which perhaps was not an unfair indication of its comparative neglect by our farmers. * * * * It has been frequently grown on the Hunter River, but is very apt to get the weevil within two or three months; and as maltsters like to have it kept for at least that time, it is scarcely available for their use. Some few years ago Messrs. Tooth and Co., the principal brewers of Sydney, offered a special prize for barley the produce of the Colony, in the hope that it would stimulate the local production of an article they largely import; but though the prize was gained by an excellent sample grown at Bega, no stimulus was given to the general cultivation. * * * * It is only on the south-east corner of the Colony, where there is a moist, cool sea-breeze, that malting barley can be advantageously grown on the coast, but on the cool table lands it can be produced of excellent quality, and the probability is that the railways will now lead to a considerable increase in cultivation. At present, the Sydney brewers, unable to get their wants supplied by local growers, import barley and malt from Tasmania and New Zealand. From these Colonies they are drawing a continually increasing supply, and are gradually limiting their orders from England. The import of barley in 1869 was 8,587 bushels."

"*Potatoes.* * * * * The import for the year amounted to 9,775 tons, of which about 1,300 tons were re-exported to Queensland. * * * * The northern rivers are found to be rather too hot for the successful cultivation of this root. Even to the south the warm spring weather is not very favourable. In a cool season the potatoes produced there are excellent, but when the hot weather sets in rapidly the quality is injured. Though the coast climate is not very favourable for the production of the best article, except in good seasons, it gives the sea-side settlers the advantage of the first of the season. From about November to February they have the Sydney market all

to themselves. By that time the Victorian potatoes from Warrnambool come in, and as they are more highly esteemed they take the lead, and the remaining unsold stock of New South Wales potatoes can only be placed at a reduction of 10*s.* to 20*s.* per ton. The Victorian potatoes in turn are rivalled by the potatoes from the north coast of Tasmania, which come into the market a few months subsequently."

"*Malt Liquors.* * * * * In the art of brewing Sydney is placed at some disadvantage. There are only three or four months in the year in which the weather is cool enough to allow the malting process to be carried out satisfactorily, and from the small quantity of barley produced in the Colony nearly all the grain has to be imported. The hot weather is also a difficulty to be encountered, and the very best XXX is only manufactured during the winter months, though by the aid of artificial refrigerators, to regulate the temperature of the fermenting tuns, sound beer can be produced all the year round. The Sydney water, too, is very pure, and rather too free from lime for brewing purposes. That drawn from Botany is simply rain-water filtered through sand, and that drawn from wells sunk in the sandstone rock on which the city is built is naturally filtered. The popularity in Sydney of the ale brewed at Castlemaine, in Victoria, has induced the manufacturers to open a branch establishment in this Colony, but though the processes are identical, they fail in the Sydney climate, and with the Sydney water, to produce an article identical with the Victorian beer. * * * * The import of beer in 1869 was more than 1,000,000 gallons in wood, and more than 500,000 in bottles, and the total value was about 260,000*l.*"

Surely in the production of malt liquors, if anywhere, is an opportunity for Tasmania to extend her trade. She has, confessedly, advantages in this respect possessed by none other of the Australian colonies; and if beer can be sent from Castlemaine, an inland town, to Sydney at a profit, much more could it be supplied from the ports of Tasmania.

A part of the concluding remarks of the same Report are worth quoting, since they apply quite as much to this Colony as they do to New South Wales, and perhaps more.

"A survey of the industries of the Colonies cannot but disclose the fact that in most of them, especially in the agricultural and pastoral departments, there is room for very great improvement. That the methods hitherto adopted have been rough and ready, such as have been natural to the early stages of colonial development, but such as are not adapted to produce the best and fullest results of which the Colony is capable. The soil can produce more, and can produce better, and can produce in greater variety, than it has ever been made to do; and a more intelligent application of scientific knowledge, and a more careful collection and distribution of the information still to be obtained from further experience, will, even with our present resources of labour and capital, add immensely to the productiveness of the soil. The exhibitions of the Agricultural Society, which are adapting themselves yearly more exactly to the wants of the community, cannot fail

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greatly to assist this progress. They reveal all the defects in our present methods, and give prominence to all improvements. They encourage those who take the lead, and they stimulate into activity those who drag in the rear.

"With respect to manufactures, we note that there have been some satisfactory successes, and some disappointing failures; that the latter have been partly due to the want of capital, or to the want of skill—and more the latter than the former."

It would be well if the following words were equally applicable:—

"The lesson has now been learnt that favourable local conditions are not sufficient, unless the requisite technical knowledge is also supplied; and in new industries for the future more care will be taken to secure the best available practised skill, so that the local advantages may be utilized to the utmost, and the early difficulties of a new enterprise may not be aggravated, and by blunders that might be avoided."

Total trade.

The total value of our sea-borne trade in 1870 amounted to 1,441,625*l.* The average for the preceding four years was 1,732,968*l.*; so that there was a decrease to the extent of 291,343*l.*, equal to 16·81 per cent.

Customs Union.

There are many causes which have contributed to this serious declension in our trade, but at present I need only mention one, seeing that that affects not only this Colony, but the whole group of British communities in this quarter of the world—I allude to the destructive "War of Tariffs" which Colony has been waging against Colony, sometimes by way of protection, at others by way of reprisal. Whatever the motive may be, the end is the same: the weapon, even if it hurts the foe, is sure to spring back and wound most the hand that wields it. The only complete remedy for this unnatural and pernicious state of things is to be found in the establishment of a Customs Union, which, so far as their trade and commerce are concerned, would have the same effect as if all the colonies were brought under one Government. To Tasmania the matter is one of vital importance. The larger, wealthier, and more populous colonies may, perhaps, be able for a time to set the laws of nature and the teachings of experience at defiance; but to a small community like this, whose resources are limited, and whose most useful population has gone to increase the wealth of her more powerful neighbours, such a war means little less than the extinction of her commerce. But a Customs Union, while it would unquestionably benefit the smaller Colony in an especial degree, would also largely conduce to the prosperity of the others; and viewing the question in its widest aspect, as affecting the whole of these branches of the great English-speaking family, I can only express my earnest desire that a Customs Union, comprehending all the members of the Australasian group of colonies, may at no distant time be established.

Shipping.

Having, in the previous remarks, carried back the comparison of the imports and exports for five years, I shall pursue the same course with respect to the Shipping Returns:—

INWARDS.

Ports.	1866.		1867.		1868.		1869.		1870.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Hobart Town -	227	54,568	222	49,085	223	52,201	218	51,168	218	51,866
Launceston and sub-ports -	416	53,335	376	48,305	431	58,352	434	63,242	395	53,781
Total - -	643	107,903	598	97,390	654	110,553	652	114,410	613	105,647

OUTWARDS.

Ports.	1866.		1867.		1868.		1869.		1870.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Hobart Town -	236	55,104	231	50,742	226	51,617	220	50,579	233	53,679
Launceston and sub-ports - -	396	50,961	400	52,012	433	59,874	444	61,986	378	53,584
Total - -	632	106,065	631	102,754	659	111,491	664	112,565	611	107,263

These Tables show a considerable falling off both in the number of vessels, and the tonnage in 1870, as compared with 1868 and 1869. The true state of the shipping trade may be better exhibited by adding together the totals of both Tables.

Years.	Inwards and Outwards.	
	No.	Tonnage.
1866 - - -	1,275	213,968
1867 - - -	1,229	200,144
1868 - - -	1,313	222,044
1869 - - -	1,316	226,975
1870 - - -	1,224	212,910

It will be seen that while the *tonnage* is very nearly the same as in 1866, and considerably in excess of that in 1867, though less than in the other years, the *number* of vessels is less than in any of the other years.

Shipping registered.

The amount of registered shipping belonging to the Colony on 31st December, 1870, shows a total of 183 vessels, having a capacity of 16,913 tons, and manned by 1,427 men and boys; being a decrease, as compared with 1869, of two vessels, of 347 tons, and of 27 men and boys.

Steamers registered.

The number of registered steamers continued the same as in the previous year, the only change being the substitution at Launceston of one wooden for one iron vessel.

Whale fisheries.

The whale fisheries in 1870 employed 15 vessels with a tonnage of 3,446; the number of their crews being 376. The produce was—black oil 1 tun, and sperm oil 448 tuns, together valued at 35,880*l*. Compared with those for 1869 these figures show the following decreases:—vessels, 2; tonnage, 918; crews, 39; black oil, 12 tuns;

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sperm, 195 tuns (30·33 per cent.); whalebone, 8 cwt.; value of produce 13,030*l.*

Coal.

The quantity of coal raised in 1870 was returned as 9,786 tons against 10,256 in 1869, being smaller by 470 tons, or 4·58 per cent.

Prices.

The prices of agricultural produce were generally lower in 1870 than in the previous year. Flour, from a range of 13*l.* to 16*l.* per ton, fell to 11*l.* 10*s.* to 13*l.*, and bread in consequence became cheaper by ½*d.* the 2 lb. loaf. Wheat in 1869 stood at 5*s.* to 7*s.* per bushel; in 1870, at 4*s.* 10*d.* to 5*s.* 2*d.*; barley in 1869 at 5*s.* to 6*s.*; in 1870, at 3*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.*; oats in 1869 at 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.*; in 1870, at 2*s.* 9*d.* to 3*s.* 8*d.*; maize rose in 1870 by 1*s.* per bushel. Hay fell from a range of 5*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.* per ton in 1869 to 2*l.* 15*s.* to 3*l.* in 1870. Butchers' meat showed the following variations:—beef per lb. in 1869, 2½*d.* to 8*d.*; in 1870, 5½*d.* to 8*d.*; pork in 1869, 6*d.* to 1*s.*; in 1870, 6*d.* to 8*d.* Veal in 1869, 8*d.* to 1*s.*; in 1870, 6*d.* to 1*s.* Timber maintained about the same price as in the previous year. Under the head of vegetables, the only noticeable variation is in the price of potatoes, which was 4*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.* per ton in 1869; in 1870, 2*l.* 15*s.* to 3*l.* 15*s.*

The past year must therefore have been a trying one for the agriculturist. The price of wool, however, which, according to the Customs returns advanced from 1*s.* 1*d.* in 1869 to 1*s.* 2¼*d* in 1870, tended in some degree to relieve the depression.

Wages.

The rate of wages seems generally to have been lower than in 1869, as might be expected, seeing that the necessaries of life were cheaper, while the demand for labour was certainly not increased.

Trades, &c.

The next return, relating to trades and manufactures, requires a few words of explanation, in order that a casual comparison of it with the corresponding return for the previous year may not mislead. The stock of forms having been exhausted, rendering it necessary to get a new supply printed, advantage was taken of the opportunity to make a few amendments. With this view, after examining the list of trades compiled in connection with the late Census, the following were added:—brickmakers, cheesemakers, market-gardeners, hawkers, jam manufactories, millwrights, plasterers, saddle and harness makers; while the following, being so few in number as to be of little interest, were omitted:—glue and size makers, gold-beaters, mast and block makers, starch manufactories, vinegar manufactories.

On comparing the returns for 1869 and 1870 respectively, we find these increases in the latter year:—agricultural implement makers, 5; blacksmiths, 9; bricklayers, 4; builders, 23; butchers, 17; cabinet-makers and joiners, 13; carpenters, 19; cider-makers, 2; corn and ship-chandler, 1; engineers, 5; fellmongers, 22; foundries (iron and brass), 3; general dealers, 6; gunsmith, 1; mills, water, 5; mills, horse, 1; painters, plumbers, and glaziers, 8; pastry-cooks and confectioners, 4; pianoforte-maker, 1; publicans, 14; saw-mill, 1; soap-boilers, 3; stone-masons, 4; tanners, 5; tin-workers, 2; tobacconists, 2; turner, 1; wine merchant, 1; wool-staplers and sorters, 3. On the other hand there were the following decreases:—auctioneers, 5; bakers, 8; basket-maker, 1; boot and

shoemakers, 11; brewery, 1; candle manufactory, 1; chemist and druggist, 1; cooper, 1; dyer, 1; furriers, 2; grocers, 3; jam manufactories, 2; maltsters, 2; pottery, 1; sail-makers, 2; shipwrights and boat-builders, 8; tailors, 5; watch-makers, 2; wheelwrights, 2.

III.—*Finance.*

Revenue and expenditure.

The receipts and disbursements of the General and Land Revenues in the two years 1869 and 1870 are shown in the subjoined return furnished by the Assistant Colonial Treasurer:—

RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of GENERAL REVENUE and LAND FUND, for the Years 1869 and 1870, as ascertained up to JUNE 30, 1871.

General Revenue, exclusive of Debentures and Expenditure under Loans Acts.

	1869.			1870.		
REVENUE.	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs and bonding rents	138,434	11	2	137,034	16	10
Inland revenue	54,156	11	9	56,099	9	5
Other receipts	24,264	9	4	24,682	14	10
Estimated receipts outstanding	3,343	19	9	3,200	0	0
	220,199	12	0	221,017	1	1
EXPENDITURE.						
Ordinary expenditure	211,221	15	0	215,339	14	11
Estimated expenditure outstanding	9,597	15	0	9,750	0	0
	£220,819	10	5	£225,089	14	11

Land Fund, exclusive of Debentures and Expenditure under Loans Acts.

	1869.			1870.		
REVENUE.	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Territorial revenue	56,602	0	2	46,264	4	9
Other receipts	935	2	0	1,614	0	0
	57,537	2	2	47,878	4	9
EXPENDITURE.						
Ordinary expenditure	47,507	6	4	47,645	9	2
Reserves under Waste Lands Acts	11,993	8	11	9,505	1	1
Estimated expenditure outstanding	—			100	0	0
	£59,500	15	3	£57,250	10	3

W. LOVETT, Assistant Colonial Treasurer.

Imperial expenditure.

The expenditure from the Commissariat Chest on account of the Imperial Service in 1870 was 65,759*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, being 3,255*l.* 12*s.* less than in 1869.

Course of exchange.

The rates of exchange with London in 1870 varied considerably, as compared with 1869. The Bank rate for purchase of mercantile bills stood at ½ per cent. discount in January; rose to par in the following month, and so continued until August, and again rose to 1½ per cent. premium in September, but fell to ½ per cent. discount in November, and continued at the same rate until the end of the year. For their own bills the Banks charged, at the beginning of the year, 1 per

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cent. premium in September, which was raised in February to 1¼ and in September to 3 per cent., but in November and December was reduced to 1½ per cent.

With the other Colonies the Exchange was the same as in 1869.

The rates of discount showed but little variation; and the interest allowed on deposits in the banks was the same as in the latter half of 1869.

Banks.

The comparison of the Bank Returns for 1870 with those for 1869 shows a considerable falling off in the business of the former year. It is true that the value of specie and bullion in hand in the first quarter exceeded that in the corresponding quarter of the previous year by 19,468*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, but in the next three quarters it fell short of it by 16,429*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*, 27,047*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*, and 26,136*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, respectively. The balances due from other banks were considerably smaller in 1870 than in 1869; while the debts due to the banks (how much of these was invested funds, such as debentures, we have no means of knowing) were larger. The value of the notes in circulation, though somewhat larger in the first quarter of 1870, was about 3,000*l.* less in each of the other quarters. The most noticeable difference between the figures of 1869 and those of 1870 is in regard to the deposits, which showed a decrease in the first quarter of 301*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*; in the second, of 68,678*l.* 11*s.*; in the third, of 69,501*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*; and in the fourth, of 79,013*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*

The most important items of the Bank Returns for the last five years are compared below:—

Years.	Average Assets.		Average Liabilities.	
	Coin and Bullion.	Debts due to Banks, &c.*	Notes in Circulation.	Deposits.
	£	£	£	£
1866 - - -	171,485	1,039,105	83,325	662,420
1867 - - - -	151,952	1,039,521	75,367	628,056
1868 - - -	171,382	1,065,499	76,490	750,754
1869 - - - -	198,291	1,047,004	86,867	767,071
1870 - - -	185,755	1,084,966	86,094	712,472

* Including notes, bills of exchange, stock and funded debts, but not including debts due from other banks.

Comparing the first and last years, there is an increase in every column. The specie in the banks was less in 1870 than in 1869, but more than in the other years; the debts due to the banks, &c. were greater than in all the other years; the value of notes in circulation also exceeded that of the other years, with the exception of 1869; the deposits, though greater in 1870 than in the two first years, were smaller than in 1868 and 1869. The increases in the figures for the latter year were most probably due in some measure to the brisk speculation in gold mining scrip which then prevailed. This was followed by a reaction in the next year, the consequences of which were felt in the stagnation of trade, and in commercial failures, and disturbance of credit. It is therefore nothing more than might naturally be expected that a comparison of the years 1869 and 1870 should be unfavourable to the latter year.

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Savings banks.

The average amount of business done by the savings banks, and the state of their funds in the last five years, is shown by the following data:—

Years.	Assets.			Liabilities.		Deposits during the Year.*	Repayments during the Year.*
	Mortgages.	Debentures.	Cash in other Banks, and on hand.	Amount of Deposits.	Reserve Fund.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1866 - -	135,913	64,190	10,422	194,429	21,426	—	—
1867 - - -	125,282	73,565	11,242	193,093	22,867	101,646	102,924
1868 - -	130,804	66,659	15,223	194,960	23,152	111,466	105,266
1869 - - -	126,615	82,276	22,278	212,508	24,185	122,019†	105,544
1870 - -	134,492	87,189	19,595	223,262	23,648	119,120	109,065

* The amounts for 1866 cannot be given, the returns for that year not being complete.
† In the return for 1869 (Statistics, p. 71) this appears as 112,018*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* The error was in the addition.

The fact which first strikes us on running the eye down the above columns is, that notwithstanding the evidences which meet us everywhere of the dulness of trade, and the declension of our commerce with other countries, the business of the savings banks has shown a steady increase. We may, I think, account for this fact, partly on the supposition that with the decline of the prosperity of former years the people have become more economical in their habits; and partly by the absence of that spirit of enterprise which formerly afforded a means of investment for small savings, thus causing to flow into these banks a part of that capital which was then directly and actively employed with the prospect of a larger profit in creating or distributing wealth.

Of the invested funds, it will be seen that in 1866 the mortgages amounted to 135,913*l.*, the debentures to 64,190*l.*; while the cash in hand was 10,422*l.*; in 1870, the mortgages amounted to 134,492*l.*, the debentures to 87,189*l.*, and the cash in hand to 19,595. In the former year, therefore, 64·56 per cent. of the funds was lent on mortgage, 30·49 per cent. on debentures, and 4·95 per cent. was uninvested; in the latter the proportions were—mortgages, 55·74 per cent.; debentures, 36·14 per cent.; cash in hand, 8·12 per cent. The decrease in the proportion occupied by mortgages, and the corresponding increase in the other items, is very considerable.

The amount standing to credit of depositors, and the reserve fund, have pretty steadily increased during the whole five years. The amount deposited during the year had increased from 101,646*l.* in 1867 (the first year in which it was recorded in the statistics) to 119,120*l.* in 1870, having risen to 122,019*l.* in 1869. In like manner, the amount repaid to depositors during the year had increased from 102,924*l.* to 109,065*l.* The excess of deposits over repayments in the four years was 31,452*l.*

Post Office money orders.

The business of the Post Office Money Order Office in the last four years—the furthest unbroken period to which the comparison can be extended—was as follows:—

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Years.	Issued.		Paid.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£		£
1867 - - - - - -	3,319	12,729	2,412	10,033
1868 - - - - - -	3,378	13,070	2,512	10,719
1869 - - - - - -	4,398	16,668	3,135	12,991
1870 - - - - - -	5,193	19,338	3,722	14,551

The system has made steady and continuous progress from its establishment; and the increases, as between 1867 and 1870, were in the following ratios, per cent.:—Issued: Number, 56·46; amount, 51·92. Paid: Number, 54·31; amount, 45·03.

Of the whole number of money orders issued in 1870, 2,027, or 39·03 per cent. were on other places within the Colony; 1,575, or 30·33 per cent., on Victoria; 863, or 16·62 per cent., on England and Wales; and 728, or 14·02 per cent. on other countries.

Public debt. The public debt of the Colony, consisting of debentures, on the 31st December, 1870, was 1,268,700*l.* Beside this sum, debentures to the amount of 74,800 were authorized, but not issued at that date; and others, to the amount of 15,100*l.*, were issuable for the purpose of redeeming other loans falling due in 1871. Of the total amount of the debt, 400,000*l.* were incurred on account of the Launceston and Western Railway, and 100,000*l.* for the abolition of State aid to religion; the annual sum of 15,000*l.*, which was previously a direct charge against the colonial revenue for purposes of public worship, being thus commuted for a payment by way of interest of 6,000*l.* a year.

Gold mining. The return relating to gold mining is, I am sorry to say, not so perfect as I should have wished to make it, the Commissioner at Lyndhurst having been unable to furnish the desired information for his district. The particulars given are, therefore, those of the district of Fingal only. There, however, we observe an increase of 95 persons employed, the total average number in 1870 having been 110 against 15 in 1869. From alluvial operations 600 oz. are said to have been produced in 1870, against 137 oz. 2 dwt. in 1869. In the latter year quartz mining in that district was altogether suspended; in 1870, during a part of the year, one company was at work, producing 364 oz. of gold, the average yield being 8 dwt. 6 gr. per ton.

As the productiveness of the gold-fields of this Colony is a matter of vital importance in its present depressed condition, and as anything bearing upon the subject must necessarily be of interest, I subjoin the observations of the Commissioners, furnished at my request; and, with reference to them, I would suggest that it should be made a condition of the occupation of Crown land for mining purposes that the occupant should furnish to the Commissioners periodical returns of such particulars relating to their operations as may be required for statistical purposes, such as number of persons employed, value of mining plant, amount of gold obtained, &c. Those who are working upon private property would probably be willing to furnish similar information as a matter of public interest.

Mr. Shaw, the Commissioner at Lyndhurst, writing on the 27th March lasts, says:—

"Referring to your circular of the 16th January last, asking for a return of gold-mining operations in this district, I regret to say I am unable to furnish it. Since the receipt of your circular I have endeavoured to collect the necessary information, but have failed. There was no provision in the late regulations to enable me to keep any record of the quantity of gold produced, and information was frequently refused. I object to put my name to a document which must necessarily be inaccurate. I cannot give you even an approximation.

"With reference to your request that I will furnish such information as I am able to give as to the present prospects of gold mining in my district, I can only say that at Waterhouse one claim is being worked; at the Back Creek, one; and at Nine Mile Springs, three. Throughout the whole district the land is locked up under lease or application for lease; the holders are not working themselves, nor is there any probability of their doing so, so long as they are permitted to hold the ground, and miners cannot get a footing in any part."

The Commissioner at Fingal, on the 5th April, writes:—

"I have the honour to enclose a return of the mining operations in this district for the year 1870, which I have compiled from the best available information; but, for many reasons, the return is not so accurate as I could have wished, and can only, with regard to the alluvial workings, be looked upon as approximate.

"The fact of my not having held office during the first seven months of the year is some reason for my not being aware of the workings of the whole year; and it must also be borne in mind that no one company, alluvial or quartz mining, was in operation for more than two months, and several were only doing dead-work, and stopped before obtaining any gold. Indeed, I may say that no gold has been obtained from alluvial ground by any company since my appointment to the charge of this district. The Tullochgorum, Mangana Alluvial, Mangana Gold Mining (Carter's and Arabin's), and the Band of Hope companies are all at a standstill, although started with great promise for the future; and the railway, a small company not registered under the Companies' Act, but which has gone to some considerable expense to prove some ground in Black Horse Gully, near Reedy Marsh, has also failed to remunerate its shareholders. Notwithstanding the large sums that have been expended, the ground held by these companies remains for the most part untested; and the question as to its containing gold in remunerative quantities is no nearer a satisfactory answer than if a pick had never been put into the ground. Incapacity and duplicity appear to have been the rule in the management of the great bulk of Tasmanian gold companies; and until a new era is inaugurated, and the present system of company manipulation abolished, it seems useless to expect remunerative results from alluvial companies in this district.

"The alluvial ground that has been taken up under miners' rights has given very fair results, and the yield of alluvial gold at the pre-

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sent time in this district is very far in advance of the previous year, if indeed it does not exceed anything hitherto realised in Tasmania. It is estimated that, at the lowest computation, from 70 to 80 ounces per week are being obtained by the alluvial gold miners at Reedy Marsh, and this yield seems to be steadily increasing. It is impossible to form more than an approximate estimate of the yield of gold, and large quantities are probably obtained and sold privately, of which no note can be taken. One can only judge by drawing inferences from those few cases where a fair estimate can be formed of the results of the miners' labour. The Reedy Marsh alluvial gold field is now supporting a population of some 300 strong, and these are receiving daily accessions to their numbers.

"In quartz mining there is little to report, only one company (the Tower Hill) was at work during the past year, and that only during the months of November and December, with the results stated in the Table. This company's battery is now, and has been for some time past, at a standstill, but a small amount of work is now being done upon the claim; and it is much to be regretted that, owing either to the quantity or the quality of the quartz not being equal to expectations, the hopes excited by the excellent commencement made by this company have been so greatly cast down by the sudden suspension of operations upon the claim.*

The general appearance of the reefs in this district is such as to afford fair prospects of success to bonâ fide workers upon them. * * * A company with a genuine capital of some twenty thousand pounds might, in competent hands, be reasonably expected to give fair returns to the shareholders, upon a very large percentage of the gold-bearing reefs in this district; but investors must not expect to receive immediate returns for their outlay, nor to procure competent men, nor substantial machinery, at a nominal outlay of capital. A small battery is at present at work on the City of Hobart claim. The proprietors of this claim have an exceedingly promising property. * * *

In the course of next summer we may fairly look for some tangible results both from our quartz reefs and alluvial mines, and I trust to be able to furnish you with more particulars in my next report than in the present meagre sketch; the materials for which, poor as they are, I have been some time in collecting, owing to the absence of all data from which to compile a full report."

IV.—*Establishments or Institutions maintained or assisted by Government.*

Post Office.

The returns relating to the Post Office in 1869 and 1870 exhibit the following particulars: — Revenue, 1870, 12,753*l.*; 1869, 12,388*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*; expenditure, 1870, 15,740*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*; 1869, 13,598*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* In 1870, six additional Post Offices and receiving-houses were established, six more persons were employed, and the miles of post roads were increased by 70.

* Since this report was furnished, the yield from this company's claim has been such as to restore confidence among those who were previously discouraged by failure of success in gold mining.

The number of letters received and despatched in those years at the offices at Hobart Town and Launceston was:— TASMANIA.

Years.	Received.				Dispatched.				
	Paid.	Ship.	Franked.	Total.	Inland, paid.	Ship, paid.	Franked.		Total.
							Inland.	Ship.	
1868	200,108	166,156	79,210	445,474	183,676	142,140	67,724	3,380	396,920
1869	222,701	178,764	85,289	486,754	207,135	152,668	61,619	3,399	424,821

The town and district letters were as follows:—

Years.	Paid.	Franked.	Total.
1869 - -	73,555	26,477	100,032
1870 - - -	76,390	34,145	110,535

The newspapers were:—

Years.	Received.			Dispatched.		
	Inland.	Ship.	Total.	Inland.	Ship.	Total.
1869 - - -	142,859	194,179	337,038	678,288	193,531	871,819
1870 - - -	121,476	214,358	335,834	644,946	200,309	845,255

On letters there appears to have been a considerable increase, amounting on the whole number passing both ways through the offices to 8·45 per cent.

On newspapers, on the contrary, there was a decrease, taking them in the same way as before, at the rate of 2·30 per cent.

Electric telegraph.

The total number of messages sent by electric telegraph increased from 13,980 in 1869 to 20,536 in 1870—the increase being at the rate of 46·89 per cent. This result was doubtless caused by the reduction in 1869 of the rate of charge for messages within the Colony from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* for ten words. From 1st May, 1869, when the reduction first took place, to 30th April, 1870, the amount received is stated to have been 781*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*; but between the same dates in the next year it increased to 878*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*

The number of stations was increased during the year by 4, and the number of persons employed also by 4.

Salmon, &c., breeding establishment.

The following statement, furnished by the Secretary to the Salmon Commissioners, shows the number of ova and young fry distributed from the breeding ponds during the past year. In 1869, 14,489 ova and fry of the salmon and brown trout were supplied; in 1870 the number was increased to 23,390. These fish have now been introduced from Tasmania into several of the Australasian Colonies, and many of the rivers and streams in this Colony have been stocked with them.

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RETURN showing the DISTRIBUTION of OVA and FRY from the BREEDING PONDS, RIVER PLENTY, during the Year ending 31st December, 1870.

OVA.

Salmon trout	New Zealand	200	
	Ballarat	100	
	Launceston	600	
Total salmon trout ova distributed			900
Brown trout	New Zealand	4,000	
	Ballarat	1,000	
	Gipps Land	2,000	
	Launceston	1,000	
	Lake Echo	550	
Total brown trout ova distributed			8,550

FRY.

Salmon trout	River Derwent	450	
	River Huon	500	
Total salmon trout fry distributed			950
Brown trout	River Lachlan	1,400	
	River Plenty	3,140	
	River Styx	2,200	
	Russell's Falls	1,000	
	River Derwent	2,000	
	Lakes near Bothwell	1,000	
	Clarendon	200	
	Woolpack	100	
	Mountain River	300	
	N. W. Bay	200	
	New Town Creek	50	
	Brown's River	500	
	Guy Faux Rivulet	500	
	Coal River	400	
Total brown trout fry distributed			12,990
Grand total			23,390

Penal and charitable establishments.

Owing to neglect of duty on the part of the gaoler at Launceston in not furnishing the returns relating to the establishments under his control, those of the penal and charitable establishments are to that extent incomplete; and I have not the means therefore of ascertaining the total cost for the year.

The cost per head per annum in 1870 was:—At Port Arthur—under punishment, 36*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*; insane, 29*l.* 7*s.*; paupers in hospital, 28*l.* 0*s.* 6¼*d.*; not in hospital, 21*l.* 13*s.* 0½*d.*; at the gaol for males, Hobart Town, 21*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*; at the gaol for females, Cascade — women, 12*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*; children, 8*l.* 16*s.* 4½*d.*; at the Cascade Pauper Establishment, 11*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*; Cascade Reformatory for Males, 11*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*; at the General Hospital, Hobart Town, 44*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*; at the hospital, Launceston, 35*l.* 3*s.* 4¾*d.*;

at the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, 26*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*; at the Queen's Asylum, 16*l.* 9*s.* 2¼*d.*, the profit arising from the farm not being taken into account; and at the Brickfields Pauper Establishment, 12*l.* At the following establishments, which were assisted by grants from the Treasury, but not under Government control, the cost per head was:—Industrial School for Females, 15*l.* 15*s.* 7½*d.*; Ragged School, 19*s.* 9*d.*; the Boys' Home, 19*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* TASMANIA.

The Boards of Works had at their disposal during the year a sum of 16,318*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, out of which they expended 5,664*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*, leaving a balance unexpended at the end of the year of 10,880*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* The expenditure was about 3,000*l.* less than in the previous year. Boards of Works.

The Road Trusts had under their control in 1870, 2,769¼ miles of road. The rates on private property ranged from 3*d.* to 1*s.* in the pound. The aggregate receipts amounted to 22,458*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*, and the expenditure to 18,179*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.* The receipts of the Bridge Trusts were 2,224*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*; the expenditure was 1,941*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* Road Trusts.

The municipalities of Hobart Town and Launceston show a total of receipts of 34,505*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*; of expenditure of 32,593*l.* 7*s.* The rates in Hobart Town were 3*s.* 1½*d.* in the pound, and at Launceston 3*s.* 3*d.* Municipalities.

The total receipts of the rural municipalities were 21,642*l.* 2*s.* 3½*d.*; the expenditure, 20,842*l.* 10*s.* 10¾*d.*; the number of miles of road under their control being 316. These totals, however, are not complete, no return having been received from Sorell.

To the present volume a return of the annual rateable value of property throughout the Colony, as shown by the Valuation Rolls, has been added. The total amount is 669,615*l.* 16*s.* Valuation of property.

V.—*Crown Lands, Agriculture, and Live Stock.*

The extent of land rented from the Crown in 1870 is stated to have been 1,350,211 acres, against 1,441,413 in 1869: the amount received for rents is returned as 7,210*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* in 1870, 7,307*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* in 1869. There was therefore a decrease in the acreage of 91,202; in the rental, of 97*l.* 2*s.* Crown lands.

The number of lots of Crown land sold in 1870 was 332; in 1869, 305. The acreage in 1870 was 23,759A. 0R, 15½P.; in 1869, 19,474A. 2R. 8P. The amount realized in 1870 was 26,831*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*; in 1869, 21,921*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* The average price per acre in 1870 was, for country lots, 1*l.* 1*s.* 8¼*d.*; for town lots, 3*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*; in 1869, for country lots, 1*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*; for town lots, 3*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*

The return relating to auriferous lands shows that in 1870 there were applied for—miners' rights, 1,524; mining leases, 161; prospecting lease, 1. In 1869 the numbers were—miners' rights, 1,152; mining leases, 118; prospecting claims, 16. In spite, therefore, of the reaction arising from unhealthy speculation in gold mining, this industry was making progress; and the present favourable results of the operations at the Tower Hill and City of Hobart Mines will give inceased confidence to investors, and have a powerful influence in promoting the development of our gold-fields.

The agricultural and live stock returns for the year ended 31st March last, were completed and published in the 'Gazette' on Agriculture.

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July 11, 15 days earlier than in the previous year. The returns from Hamilton were not received complete until June 27; those from Sorell, in consequence of the confusion existing there in regard to municipal affairs, and the entire change of officials, not until July 8. In two days afterwards the returns were completed, carefully checked, and forwarded to the Government Printing Office for publication.

Acreage.

The total acreage of land in cultivation in 1870 was 330,257, against 318,484 in the previous year—being an increase of 3·70 per cent.

The number of acres occupied by the principal crops in the last five years was—

Crops.	1866.	1867–8.	1868–9.	1869–70.	1870–1.
Wheat	71,348	64,020	62,186	62,379	57,382
Barley	4,596	6,860	7,954	9,030	7,617
Oats	34,358	27,574	24,199	30,061	30,946
Pease	3,655	4,558	3,627	3,841	4,538
Potatoes	10,520	10,766	7,977	9,290	9,823
Hay	33,762	33,064	33,275	34,862	33,612
Hops	143	233	476	561	642

The only crops which show any improvement are barley, peas, and hops. As regards potatoes, although a wider area was under crop in 1870–1 than in 1869–70, yet it was under that in 1866. The increase in hops is about 450 per cent. But the present low prices, and the protective duty which has just been put on this and other articles in Victoria, will probably prevent any further increase until some counteracting cause shall have come into operation.

In all the root crops, except mangel-wurzel, there was a decrease. In mangel-wurzel there was an increase of 117 acres.

The acreage in beans and tares forms but a very minute proportion of the whole; but small as it was, there was an increase last year of 183 acres, or 31·17 per cent. On that in tobacco there was a decrease of 98, or 44·14 per cent. Green forage shows an increase of 503 acres, or 31·54 per cent.; permanent artificial grasses, an increase of 2,954, or 3·72 per cent.; bare fallows, an increase of 4,069, or 18·45 per cent.; all other land in a state of cultivation, an increase of 8,960 acres, or 16·12 per cent.; new land broken up, an increase of 419, or 7·70 per cent.; under rotation of crops, an increase of 14,472 acres, or 58·61 per cent. If the last term has been rightly understood in furnishing the information to the collectors, the result is very satisfactory, and must be regarded as an earnest of the institution of a better system of cultivation. Seeing a large increase under this head in the Port Sorell district, I examined the nominal return, and found the total made up of a very large number of small, or comparatively small, holdings; so that I have no reason to question its correctness. At Sorell in 1870–1, 5,498 acres were returned under this head; in the previous year, none.

The number of acres of wheat reaped by machine in the past year was 11,993; in the previous year only 3,685. In 1869–70 the acreage reaped by machine was only 5·92 per cent. of the whole acreage under wheat, 94·08 per cent. having been reaped by hand;

in 1870–1 it amounted to 20·90 per cent. of the whole, the acreage reaped by hand being only 79·10 per cent. It would appear, therefore, that the farmers are becoming aware of the necessity of employing machinery in agricultural operations; and this is an important step gained.

Average produce.

As the gross produce is dependent upon the acreage and average yield, it is not necessary to burden this report with any remarks upon it. I shall therefore pass on to compare the average of the principal crops in the last four years. I am not able to carry it back five years, because previously to 1867–8—the first year in which the returns were compiled by me—the average was not calculated, and it would be a work of too much time and labour to do so now. Hops are omitted, because in the earlier part of the period, being almost confined to one district, unless the age of the plants were also given, any general average would, for purposes of comparison, be very deceptive.

Crops.	1867–8.	1868–9.	1869–70.	1870–1.
Wheat, bushels - - -	13·98	14·13	15·35	15·92
Barley, ditto - - - -	24·40	15·79	22·49	22·44
Oats, ditto - - - -	22·94	19·75	22·19	22·79
Pease, ditto - - - -	18·64	13·13	19·21	18·04
Potatoes, tons - - -	3·49	3·43	3·54	3·41
Hay, ditto - - - - -	1·03	0·85	1·29	1·31

Prices.

The prices of agricultural produce, as returned by the collectors, do not seem to present many variations of any importance as compared with those of the previous year. Barley was generally cheaper, as well as apples and pears. But the greatest decline was in the price of hops, which at New Norfolk fell from one shilling and sixpence per pound to ninepence, or 50 per cent. At Glenorchy, in 1871, they were returned at one shilling per pound; in 1870, at one shilling and eightpence. This fall in the price of one of our principal productions has caused serious loss to an important class of agriculturists.

Agricultural machines.

In the return of machinery used for agricultural purposes we observe some increases, namely, clod crushers, 12; cultivators, 19; horse hoes, grubbers, and scarifiers, 106; irrigation works, 13; lift and force pumps, 5; ploughs (sub-soil), 20; reaping and mowing machines, combined, 18; seed drills, 12; threshing machines (horse), 4; while, on the other hand, there are decreases in the following:—steam-engines, 4; chaff cutters, 10; corn crushers, 2; hay rakes (horse), 4; mowing machines, 21; reaping machines, 6; sowing machines, 2; threshing machines (steam), 4.

Live stock.

In comparing the number of live stock in the past and previous years, we observe an increase of 96 horses, 6,362 horned cattle, 19 goats, 2 mules, and 1 ass. In sheep there was a decrease of 181,412 on the number returned in the earlier year. A comparison of the returns furnished to me, with those obtained by the Chief Inspector of sheep, shows that in that year, in some instances, sheep belonging to the same owner were included in more than one district, and this being corrected in 1870–1, would account for some of the difference; but the immense numbers of rabbits which prevail in some

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parts of the Colony, and are now causing such alarm among the flockowners, must have had a much greater share in the reduction.

Live stock slaughtered.

The number of sheep and cattle imported and slaughtered in the last quinquennium, as given by the Inspectors of Stock at Hobart Town and Launceston, was:—

Years.	Sheep.		Horned Cattle.	
	Imported.	Slaughtered.	Imported.	Slaughtered.
1866	15,010	74,487	1,363	6,365
1867	35,595	69,673	1,935	7,001
1868	44,732	76,512	2,427	6,304
1869	24,856	86,886	1,657	7,833
1870	17,515	89,585	1,653	7,196

If from the number slaughtered we deduct the imported stock, we shall arrive pretty nearly at the number of home-raised stock killed for the consumption of Hobart Town and Launceston. These, accordingly, were:—

Years.	Sheep.	Cattle.
1866	59,477	5,002
1867	34,078	5,066
1868	31,780	3,877
1869	62,030	6,176
1870	72,070	5,513

The consumption in the two last years has enormously increased, if the returns furnished to me be correct.

Collectors' Reports.

The Report of the Collectors of Agricultural Statistics do not give much indication of improvement during the past year. Clearing, fencing, &c., are stated to be proceeding briskly in Gould's New Country, and some attention is there given to the growth of hops. The latter is also said to be the case at Hamilton. At Longford the Collector considers that the agricultural and pastoral interests are "in a healthy state." At New Norfolk 60½ acres of land were planted with hops in the year, and three new kilns were erected. The Collector at Port Sorell has furnished an exceedingly good Report, and I would commend it to the consideration of the general class of farmers in this Colony. "A little better system of farming "prevails here," he says, "if any system save a very bad one can be "said to exist in any part of the district." It appears from his remarks that the farmers are not unwilling to learn, if they had any one to show them practically how to adopt a better system. It is much to be deplored that there are no means of doing so, or of disseminating among them information to this end. The Agricultural Associations might, if they felt inclined, do very much more to benefit the cultivators of the soil in this way than they now do. At Richmond I am glad to observe "a steady inclination to extend the "use of machinery as evidenced in the increase in the number of "reaping and threshing machines, &c." At Westbury the Collector states that in a great many instances the grain perished from the wet. "There are a great number of tenants," he observes, "in this dis-"trict not in a position to expend money in draining their lands.

"Those who are adopting that very excellent system feel the very "great advantage it is to their lands, whether in crop or otherwise."

VI.—*Law, Crime, &c.*

Committals.

The number of persons committed for trial in 1870 was 138; in 1869, 155; being a decrease of 10·97 per cent.

Trials in Superior Courts.

The number of persons tried in the Superior Courts in the last two years was:—

Years.	Felonies.	Misdemeanours.	Total.	Classed as Offences	
				Against the Person.	Against Property.
1869 - - - -	81	31	112	47	65
1870 - - - - -	78	32	110	45	65

The comparison is therefore in favour of the latter year.

Executions.

One execution took place in 1870, as in 1869.

Magisterial jurisdiction.

The number of offenders summarily dealt with by magistrates or committed for trial in 1870 shows a favourable comparison with that in the previous year; the decrease being at the rate of 7·97 per cent.

Years.	Number of Offenders.		
	Apprehended.	Appeared on Summons.	Total.
1869 - -	4,447	2,859	7,306
1870* - - -	4,035	2,689	6,724

* Offences at Sorell not returned. In 1869 there were there apprehended 93, and 102 persons appeared on summons.

Litigation.

The amount of litigation in the Supreme Court under "The Small Debts Act," in 1869 and 1870, was as follows:—Summonses issued, 1870, 50; 1869, 58: cases tried, 1870, 32; 1869, 27: amount of claims sued for, 1870, 503*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*; 1869, 488*l.* 17*s.*: amount of verdicts obtained, 1870, 415*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*; 1869, 410*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*: warrants and subpœnas issued, 1870, 18; 1869, 26.

In its ordinary civil jurisdiction the Supreme Court tried 18 cases in 1870, against 28 in 1869: and issued writs of summonses in 1870, 366; in 1869, 356.

In the Inferior Courts of Requests the litigation in the two years was:—

Years.	Total Number of		Total Amount of		Writs of Fi. Fa. issued.
	Summonses issued.	Cases tried.	Claims sued for.	Verdicts obtained.	
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1869 - - -	2,370	1,261	13,797 10 8½	6,381 15 0	365
1870 - - -	2,518	1,389	13,718 19 8¾	6,816 16 11	428

Probates, &c.

Probates and Letters of Administration were granted by the Supreme Court in 1870 to the number of 87, representing a sum of 207,596*l.*; the number in 1869 being 84, the amount 83,957*l.*

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Insolvencies.

The insolvencies in the two years were as follows:—

Years.	Number declared Insolvent.	Amount of scheduled	
		Assets.	Liabilities.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1869 - -	75	22,166 6 6	159,572 6 2
1870 - - -	80	45,689 6 5	132,561 8 1

Mortgages. The number of mortgages registered was—in 1870, 234; in 1869, 269; the amount in 1870, 139,138*l.* 5*s.*; in 1869, 145,690*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*

Lands' Titles Office. Under the Real Property Act 584 transactions are recorded as having taken place in 1870, the value of property in question being 135,466; the area, 90,509A. 3R. 4P. In 1869 the number of transactions was 506; the value of property, 120,794*l.*; the area 63,375A. 1R. 27P.

Grant deeds. The number of grant deeds enrolled in the Supreme Court in 1870 was 396, against 419 in 1869, being a decrease of 5·49 per cent.

Inquests. Inquests were held in 1870 on the bodies of 152 persons, against 158 in 1869.

VII.—*Education, Religion, &c.*

Public schools. From the returns contained in this volume, and from a return prepared by the Board of Education, a copy of which was forwarded to me by direction of the Chairman, I am enabled to supply the information which follows.

The number of schools under the Board of Education was 128; the number of children on the rolls 9,997; in average daily attendance, 5,241. The cost of the public schools was—16,588*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*, 12,211*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* of which was borne by the State, and 4,377*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* by the parents. The particulars extracted in the following Table may be useful and interesting beyond this Colony.

Colonies.	Percentage of Children to Population.		Cost per Scholar									Cost per head of Population.		
			Of number on Rolls.			Of number in average daily attendance.								
	On the Rolls.	In average daily attendance.	To the State.	To the Parents.	Total.	To the State.	To the Parents.	Total.	To the State.	To the Parents.	Total.			
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tasmania - -	10·06	5·07	1 4 5	0 8 9	1 13 2	2 8 5	0 17 4¼	3 5 9¼	0 2 5½	0 0 10¼	0 3 4			
New South Wales	17·06	7·65	1 4 2½	0 9 6¼	1 13 9	2 13 11¾	1 1 3½	3 15 3¼	0 4 1¼	0 1 7¼	0 5 9			
Queensland -	14·76	7·03	1 10 7¾	—	1 10 7¾	3 4 5	—	3 4 5	0 4 6¼	—	0 4 6¼			
South Australia	8·34	6·61	1 4 5¼	0 17 0¾	2 1 6	1 10 10¼	1 1 6¾	2 12 5	0 2 0¼	0 1 5	0 3 5			
Victoria - -	16·96	8·44	1 4 11½	0 15 6¼	2 0 5¾	2 10 1¾	1 11 2¼	4 1 4	0 4 2¾	0 2 7¼	0 6 10			

The expenditure by the Council of Education in 1870 amounted to 1,055*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*, including 800*l.* on account of four Tasmanian scholarships. The expenditure on account of school exhibitions awarded by the Council and Board of Education respectively was 570*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.* The number of such exhibitions held in 1870 was 29, eight of which were awarded in that year.

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Friendly Societies.

The return relating to Friendly Societies shows that 15 societies complied with the requirements of the Act by rendering their accounts to the Clerks of the Peace—two less than in 1869. The aggregate receipts of these societies during the past year amounted to 3,326*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, the expenditure to 3,783*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*, the invested capital to 8,798*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*, and the number of members to 1,565.

There was a decrease on the receipts and capital, but an increase on the expenditure and on the number of members.

VIII.—*Vital Statistics.*

Births.

In 1870 there were registered the births of 1,615 male, and 1,439 female children, a total of 3,054, being 195 more than in 1869.

The birth rate in 1870 was 30·31 per 1,000 of the population at the end of the year. For the last five years the birth rate was—

In 1866	28·81	per 1000.
„ 1867	30·18	„
„ 1868	29·69	„
„ 1869	28·78	„
„ 1870	30·31	„

It was therefore higher in 1870 than in any of the other years.

The proportion of male to female children whose births were registered, in the last five years, was—

In 1866	104·12	to 100.
„ 1867	102·66	„
„ 1868	104·51	„
„ 1869	102·19	„
„ 1870	112·23	„

Deaths.

The excess of males in 1870 is very remarkable, and quite unusual.

The number of deaths registered in 1870 was 1,404, of whom 873 were males, and 531 were females. Beside these, 4 convicts under sentence died at Port Arthur, and one criminal (free by servitude) was excuted, whose deaths were not registered, making the whole number of deaths in the year 1409, against 1,442 in 1869. The ratio of deaths to total population was therefore 13·98 per 1,000.

The rate of mortality for the last five years is shown below :—

Years.	Ratio per 1000 of living Population.
1866	13·72
1867	14·36
1868	16·61
1869	13·51
1870	13·98

The deaths of males and females in proportion to the total number of each sex living at the end of the year were, per 1,000,—males, 16·33; females, 11·23. For every 100 deaths of females there were, therefore, 145·45 deaths of males.

The following Table shows the ratios of deaths in 1870 at each age

TASMANIA.

to 1,000 persons of each sex of the same age living at the date of the last Census,* 7th February, 1870:—

Ages.	Males.		Females.	
	No. of Deaths.	Proportion per 1000 of Males at each age living.	No. of Deaths.	Proportion per 1000 of Females at each age living.
All ages - - - - -	873	16·33	531	11·23
Under 1 year - - - - -	174	117·25	124	88·38
„ 2 years - - - -	25	19·36	21	15·82
„ 5 „ - - - -	32	7·26	33	7·52
„ 10 „ - - - -	22	2·96	23	3·21
„ 15 „ - - - -	20	2·96	15	2·21
„ 20 „ - - - -	17	3·96	11	2·42
„ 30 „ - - - -	40	7·06	36	5·48
„ 40 „ - - - -	40	7·69	41	7·47
„ 50 „ - - - -	63	10·03	58	13·67
„ 60 „ - - - -	118	22·31	59	21·79
„ 70 „ - - - -	133	41·24	52	41·28
„ 80 „ - - - -	127	100·63	47	95·14
„ 90 „ - - - -	49	208·51	10	126·58
Above 90 „ - - - -	11	305·55	—	—
Ages not specified - - - -	2	—	1	—

The deaths of males almost uniformly exceeded those of females, the exceptions being at the ages of 2 to 5, 5 to 10, 40 to 50, and 60 to 70. In the case of children under one year, and in that of persons between 80 and 90, the excess was very marked. Between 2 and 10 years the chances of life were slightly in favour of the boys, and again between 40 and 50, and between 60 and 70, the males have the advantage At the last named period of life the rates seem to have been practically equal. Between 40 and 50 is the most dangerous epoch of a woman's life; and the rate of mortality at that age might therefore naturally be expected to be in favour of the other sex.

The proportion of deaths of males and females at each age to 100 deaths of males and females respectively, of all ages, was—

Ages.	Males.	Females.
All ages - - - -	100·00	100·00
Under 1 year - - -	19·93	23·35
„ 2 years - - -	2·86	3·96
„ 5 „ - - -	3·67	6·21
„ 10 „ - - -	2·52	4·33
„ 15 „ - - -	2·29	2·83
„ 20 „ - - -	1·95	2·07
„ 30 „ - - -	4·58	6·78
„ 40 „ - - -	4·58	7·72
„ 50 „ - - -	7·21	10·93
„ 60 „ - - -	13·52	11·11
„ 70 „ - - -	15·24	9·79
„ 80 „ - - -	14·55	8·85
„ 90 „ - - -	5·61	1·88
Above 90 „ - - -	1·26	—
Not specified - - -	0·23	0·19

* This is the nearest obtainable approximation to the true numbers. The errors will probably not be greater than if the population had been obtained by calculation from the estimated number on 31st December.

The deaths are classified according to diseases as follows:—

			Percentage of total Deaths of each sex.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
I. Zymotic diseases - - -	111	96	12·71	18·08
II. Constitutional diseases - -	95	91	10·88	17·14
III. Local diseases - - -	416	217	47·65	40·87
IV. Developmental diseases - -	155	95	17·76	17·89
V. Violence - - - -	80	22	9·17	4·14
Unspecified causes - - - -	16	10	1·83	1·88
All causes - - - - -	873	531	100·00	100·00

The greatest number of deaths occurred in the March quarter, when it was 381; the least in the December quarter, when it was 280. This is in accordauce with the general law prevailing in this Colony.

Meteorology.

The meteorological features of the past year may be thus summarized:—Barometer at temperature of 32°, and at mean sea level 29·914, being ·039 in excess of the previous year, and ·107 in excess of the 25 years' average; mean temperature, 55·96, being ·14 below that of the previous year, but 1·51 above 25 years average; mean diurnal range, 18·52, being ·64 higher than the previous year, which exceeded the mean of the 25 years by ·02; mean solar intensity, 92·57, which was below the usual standard; mean terrestrial radiation, 42·45, also below; humidity of air, ·71, also below; elastic force of vapour, ·317, below 1869, but slightly above the 25 years; total rainfall, 27·53 inches, being 3·66 above 1869, and 4·88 above the 25 years; number of days on which rain fell, 130, the same as in 1869, but 15 below the average of 25 years; ozone, 6·52, being ·68 below 1869, and ·66 below the 25 years; wind, prevailing direction, N.W., and total force during the year, 704·13 lbs. per square inch, being 182·47 lbs. more than in 1869. The monthly mean of the wind-force was 15·20 above that of 1869, but 4·31 below the 25 years' average.

Diseases, &c., in charitable institutions.

The number of cases of disease treated in the hospitals (not including the insane) and in the Queen's Asylum for Destitute Children, during the past year, was 1,505, and the number of deaths, 180, being in the ratio of 11·96 per cent. At the Queen's Asylum there was one death. At the Cascade Pauper Establishment the deaths of males were 22; females, 19: the rate of mortality, calculated on the average number of each sex during the year was therefore, for males, 13·33 per 100; for females, 16·10 per 100. For the whole population the rate of mortality between 60 and 70 (the average age of these paupers being 67) was for males 15·24, and for females, 9·79 per cent.

At the Hospital for the Insane there were 180 cases of sickness treated, and 21 deaths, the ratio of deaths to cases being 11·66 per cent.

Marriages.

In 1870 there were performed 670 marriages, being an increase of 19 on those of the preceding year. The marriage rate per 1,000

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of population in 1870 was 6·65. For the last five years it was:—

Years.	Rate per 1000 of Population.
1866	5·86
1867	6·06
1868	6·49
1869	6·55
1870	6·65

The ratio in 1870 thus appears to have been the highest in the five years.

Vaccinations.

Not a single vaccination was performed in any public institution during the past year, the medical officers having, in every case, furnished "Nil" returns.

IX.—*Miscellaneous.*

Political franchise.

The only returns under this head which require any remark are those relating to Parliamentary Representation. In order to carry out the changes in the constitution of the two Houses, the Electoral Act 34 Vict., No. 12, directs that no Court of Revision shall be held "for the purpose of preparing Electoral Rolls and Polling Lists to "come into force on the eleventh day of April, 1871," and the number of electors on the rolls was therefore the same as in the previous year.

Conclusion.

The general view of the state of the Colony which we gain from the foregoing facts and from the returns themselves, in as far as its material interests are concerned, cannot be said to be satisfactory. The trade with other countries was still declining, and under the operation of the system of protective duties* in which our neighbours fondly, but foolishly, put their trust, may be expected to be still further limited; and the business of the banks was following in the same track. The low prices of wool and hops were the cause of great depression among the growers, and must have seriously affected all other interests. The improvement which is now established in the price of wool, and the defective yield of hops in England, will doubtless bring about a partial reaction in the present year. The prospect of the speedy commencement of the main line of railway will lend an impetus to trade; and the development of the gold-fields at Mangana, Black Boy, and on the North Coast, which, if somewhat slowly, is nevertheless surely, proceeding, warrant us in believing that the worst period of depression is already passing away. If there were any probability of a Customs Union being soon established, we should be justified in indulging more sanguine hopes; but as long as the present unnatural retaliatory† system continues,

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* "Protection has been clearly shown to mean—a thieving from one man to give another the half, and waste the other half on the way."—'Lectures on Political Economy,' by F. W. Newman, p. 26.

† "The plea of *reciprocation* was the last fallacy by which it was sought to forbid Free Trade, and the meaning of it was, to keep up the system of prohibitions after it was condemned by teaching each State that no *one* must abolish it, for fear others should not follow its example."—Ibid, p. 194.

it must act as a serious hindrance to the prosperity of the Colony.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. C. Nowell,
Government Statistician.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 17.

(No Report received; but a Statistical View of its progress is annexed.)

STATISTICAL VIEW OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—1870.

STATISTICAL VIEW of the PROGRESS of SOUTH AUSTRALIA, from the Year 1861 to 1870, inclusive.

Year.	Population.	No. of inhabitants in city of Adelaide.	No. of inhabitants in country districts.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Convictions in Supreme Court.	Flour mills.	Lands sold in each year.	No. of acres under cultivation.	Live Stock.		
											Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep and lambs.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Acres.	Acres.	No.	No.	No.
1861	†126,830	18,303	108,527	5,551	1,158	1,962	62	76	147,354	486,667	52,597	265,434	3,038,356
1862	135,329	—	—	6,075	1,189	1,918	64	77	129,910	494,511	56,251	258,342	3,431,000
1863	140,416	—	—	5,966	1,152	2,221	86	77	159,791	555,968	59,008	226,106	3,891,642
1864	147,341	—	—	6,208	1,291	2,565	70	75	224,171	587,775	62,899	204,892	4,106,230
1865	156,605	—	—	6,672	1,436	2,174	134	80	316,477	660,569	73,993	158,057	3,779,308
1866	†163,452	23,229	140,223	6,782	1,299	2,753	107	77	214,429	739,714	70,829	123,820	3,911,610
1867	172,860	—	—	7,041	1,379	2,939	126	76	144,020	810,734	74,228	122,200	4,477,445
1868	176,298	—	—	7,247	1,286	2,516	128	82	199,693	808,234	75,409	123,213	4,987,024
1869	181,146	—	—	6,976	1,211	2,211	121	80	182,291	850,576	73,828	119,697	4,436,955
1870	183,797	—	—	7,021	1,260	2,544	117	80	‡115,876	959,006	83,744	136,832	4,400,655

Year.	Shipping.				Export of produce of the Colony.					Value of		Revenue.§	Expenditure.§
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Breadstuffs, Grain, &c.	Minerals and Metals.	Wool.		Total exports of produce (including sundries).	Total Exports.	Total Imports.		
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.			Quantity.	Value.					
					£	£	lbs.	£	£	£	£	£	£
1861	401	103,196	387	96,135	712,789	452,172	13,164,391	623,077	1,838,639	2,032,311	1,976,018	558,586	482,951
1862	374	105,231	392	111,290	633,241	547,619	13,229,009	635,270	1,920,487	2,145,796	1,820,656	548,709	579,381
1863	440	127,667	446	127,826	747,116	542,393	15,566,787	715,935	2,095,356	2,358,817	2,028,279	631,700	635,205
1864	617	160,095	619	161,293	1,464,593	691,624	16,092,095	775,656	3,015,537	3,305,545	2,412,931	775,837	626,688
1865	619	183,102	601	174,188	1,228,480	620,112	16,269,890	821,482	2,754,657	3,129,846	2,927,596	1,089,128	790,504
1866	524	169,439	515	170,432	645,401	824,501	19,739,523	990,173	2,539,723	2,858,737	2,835,142	949,774	1,064,323
1867	555	167,547	581	176,272	1,037,085	753,413	19,350,195	919,532	2,776,095	3,164,622	2,506,394	716,294	1,003,271
1868	446	136,051	457	141,821	568,491	624,022	28,899,190	1,305,280	2,603,826	2,819,300	2,238,510	716,004	852,689
*1869	564	169,991	548	163,516	890,343	627,152	27,022,671	1,008,669	2,722,438	2,993,035	2,754,770	777,351	802,251
1870	445	140,081	471	147,908	470,828	574,090	25,908,728	902,753	2,123,297	2,419,488	2,029,793	657,576	782,289

* Almost total failure of the harvest 1867–8, owing to red rust.

† Excepting as regards the years marked thus †, in which the census was taken, the number given is the population as estimated at the close of each year. The figures previous to 1850 have been procured from the best available sources; where blanks occur, the information was not attainable.

‡ Total extent of land alienated, 4,068,067 acres.

§ Land Fund included since 1849.

Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, 1871.

J. BOOTHBY, Government Statist.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 18.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor WELD to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 69.)

MY LORD, Government House, Perth, May 22, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1870. The cause of the delay which has occurred in its transmission is explained in the Colonial Secretary's Report, which I also enclose, and in my reply to your Lordship's Circular Despatch of 7th March, 1871.

The Colonial Secretary's Report is so full that further comment seems almost superfluous on my part, especially as I have discussed the subjects alluded to in his report with him so frequently that I have little to add and less to dissent from.

* * * * *

The remarks of the Colonial Secretary on the financial state of the Colony are just, and I concur in them, but I have hopes of an improvement, though not of a very immediate one. Early rains are now falling, commercial prospects are brighter in Europe, and stocks in merchants' hands here must be getting low, so that there is reason to hope for an increase of the revenue, especially if the timber companies' operations extend, or should gold be found in payable quantities. On the other hand, the reductions I have made in Imperial expenditure increase colonial burthens and lessen the supply of ready money. I would also note in regard to the expenditure on public works, that soon after my arrival it became necessary for me to recover, as far as possible, the advance made by my (acting) predecessor to distressed agriculturists for seed wheat, by allowing them to work out their debts on public works. By this means the sandhills which threatened to overwhelm the town of Geraldton have been arrested in their progress and covered in great measure with bush at a comparatively small further outlay; the operation has been most successful, and of vital importance to both the town and port of Champion Bay district. The stone crushers alluded to by the Colonial Secretary suit our hard stone admirably; one is now at work in the town of Perth, and the other has been offered to a proposed combination of district Road Boards. They will to some extent cause the diminution of convict labour to be less severely felt.

I wish to call your Lordship's attention to the prosperity of the wine-growing interest, which I hope will hereafter become a main source of prosperity to the Colony. I am informed that one gentleman, who has about 30 acres in vines, expects this year to make a profit of 1,000*l*., and there appears to be a ready sale within the Colony itself for all wine that is likely to be produced for some time to come; indeed, the best wines are sold as soon as they are at all drinkable. I anticipate good results from the advent of an Italian gentleman,

referred to in my Despatch, No. 40, of 2nd March, 1871, a practical and scientific wine grower and wine maker, who is also about to devote himself to sericulture.

Letters which have this morning reached me from the Government Resident at Nicholl Bay, give most favourable accounts of the pearl shell fishery, new banks having been discovered. The Malay divers seem to be a success, and it is probable that more will be sent for.

I have already pointed out the urgent necessity for steam communication on this coast; unless it be established the trade of the North-west Settlements will go to Singapore, in the same manner as the Albany supplies on the South-east are already derived from Adelaide. I hope that I shall, with the assistance of the Colonial Secretary, be able to impress upon the colonists of Western Australia that steam communication in these days is a vital necessity, and that the difficulty of communication along the coast and with neighbouring Colonies cripples trade, and, more than anything else, retards the progress of the Colony.

There has been a slight increase in tonnage, both in entrances and clearances over former years.

Imports have fallen, as might have been expected, from 256,729*l.* in 1869 to 213,239*l.* in 1870, and exports slightly from 205,502*l.* to 200,985*l.* It is, however, satisfactory to find that the imports and exports are so nearly balanced.

The acreage under crop has increased from 49,089 acres in 1869 to 54,527 in 1870. Of live stock, horses and cattle have remained nearly stationary, and owing to bad seasons there is an actual decrease of about 40,000 on sheep.

Of our exports, ores, sandalwood, and timber show an increase, and wool a decrease. I think the next returns will show an increase on the item of whale-oil, and a very considerable one on timber. In a good season we should export wheat.

I have already in various Despatches touched on the other matters referred to in the Colonial Secretary's report, legislative and ecclesiastical, coast survey, immigration, new industries, pauperism, and others, I will therefore only add that the reduction of convictions at the petty sessions, and the diminution of drunkenness which has been especially observable in the convict class, is a valuable testimony to the efficiency of the police and convict arrangements; a few months ago there was rather an increase of crime of a more serious nature, several burglaries having taken place, which I attributed to the difficulty the bond class experienced in obtaining employment. Since then, the police reports show a marked improvement, and in the district in which the West Australian Timber Company has lately commenced operations, ticket-of-leave and conditional pardon men find no difficulty in obtaining employment for cash payments, which proves that the diminution of drunkenness is not alone attributable to want of means for self-indulgence; and I trust that the lesson given by the late bad seasons has impressed the necessity of more provident habits upon all classes of our labouring population. Many causes have been assigned for the slow progress of this Colony, but the fact has been too often overlooked, that no country can prosper when earnings are spent in drink instead of being profitably invested,

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which, as far as I can learn, has been more frequently the case here than in any country with which in the course of a very considerable colonial experience I have been acquainted. In connection with this subject I am able to state with much gratification that the savings bank's deposits have increased from 6,797*l.* in 1869 to 7,237*l.* in 1870, having almost reached the figure at which they stood previous to the bad seasons from which the Colony has been suffering.

Having assumed the Government here at a period when it became my duty to reduce Imperial expenditure on which the Colony has relied, when the revenue was falling off, commercial enterprise stagnant, and evil auguries of the future were rife, I have used my utmost efforts to adopt or urge on the colonists the best means of rising superior to the difficulties which have surrounded us. Necessarily the work of renovating this Colony is one of time and difficulty, but I see no reason, in the present aspect of affairs, to doubt but that with a continuation of that support which I have always received and gratefully acknowledge from the Home Government and the co-operation of the colonists, my task may be crowned with success, and that the time is not far distant when Western Australia may become a self-supporting and self-relying Colony.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) FRED. A. WELD, Governor.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth, May 19, 1871.

SIR,

Herewith I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1870, and to express my regret that the preparation of it should have been delayed so long beyond the usual time; an unusual press of office work combined with a weak clerical staff, added to the fact that I was personally engaged during the early portion of the year at the session of the Legislative Council, must be my excuses for a delay that has not occurred during the period (16 years) that I have held my present office.

2. It will be observed that the actual forms transmitted from England have not been used in compiling the Blue Book, as on previous occasions; the establishment of a Government printing press has this year been availed of to strike off a number of copies for distribution; the forms have been slightly varied for convenience sake, but the information asked for has in all cases been given. Hitherto it has been a work of considerable labour to prepare three manuscript copies, two for transmission and one for record in the Colony.

Revenue.

3. The revenue for the year was about 3,000*l.* less than was estimated, and 5,500*l.* less than was received in 1869, and this may be accounted for by the depressions in all interests consequent on a suc-

cession of bad seasons. The harvest of 1869, when your Excellency first arrived, was very far below the average; in 1868 it was almost a total failure, and in 1870 the crops in no parts of the Colony were such as to leave much margin for profit. Such a continuance of bad seasons affected trade in every way, many persons were thrown out of work, and the revenue consequently depreciated.

Expenditure.

4. Notwithstanding this depreciation there was an excess of expenditure beyond the estimated sum of 11,000*l*., a considerable portion of which was expended in public works, which afforded employment for those seeking it; there was also the expense of an exploring expedition to South Australia, as well as the importation of stone crushers and engines which were ordered to be sent for by a resolution of the Legislative Council at the Session in May, 1870, and did not appear on the estimates.

Census.

5. A Census of the population was taken on the 31st March, 1870. The population throughout the entire Colony did not exceed 25,000 in number, but the altered numbers of the various religious denominations gave rise to changes in the conduct of ecclesiastical and scholastic affairs to which I shall hereafter allude.

New Legislature.

6. The principal event of the year was undoubtedly the passing a measure for the establishment of Representative Legislative Council, under the provision of the Imperial Act, 13 and 14 Vict., cap. 59; this was done on the 1st of June, 1870, the forty-first anniversary of the foundation of the Colony; the first elections took place during the month of October, and the Council was formally inaugurated by your Excellency on the 5th December. Many of the numerous measures submitted for consideration passed into law, but not till after the close of 1870, and remarks upon them may more properly form matter for a Blue Book Report for 1871. I may, however, state that among the measures taken into consideration were the formation of Boards for the local management of roads throughout the Colony and the establishment of Municipal Councils in the various towns, thus leading the colonists, by local self-government in small matters, to become fitted for that more extended form of responsible Government, to assume which there are those who are already anxious.

Wants of the Colony.

7. There are two matters which for some time have appeared to me to be pressing wants: the Blue Book states facts as they are. It may be allowed, in a paper accompanying the Statistical Tables, to allude to wants that cannot be made to appear in such Tables. Steam commnnication between the various ports in the Colony, and a proper survey of the coast, are matters essential to the progress of the Colony.

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Steam Vessels on Coast.

8. Western Australia is at present isolated simply for want of steam communication; there is ample intercolonial trade for moderate-sized coasting steamers, and the general attention drawn in the Eastern Colonies to the many resources now commencing to be developed would be increased tenfold but for the time lost and difficulty experienced in travelling throughout the Colony. It is not uncommon for a couple of months to pass by without receiving any communication from the far Northern or Eastern Settlements; and though the distance in either case by coasting steamer would be easily accomplished, the good that would result by a visit to these new ports by your Excellency must be postponed because, with the present means of locomotion, the time to accomplish such a matter cannot be spared.

Survey of Coasts.

9. Now that large vessels are sought to carry away the great amount of Jarrah timber for which freight is demanded, the evil of a coast line only partially surveyed, and improper and incorrect information in regard to the various anchorages, is very apparent. I may instance Geographe Bay, where there is as good anchorage and shelter as could reasonably be required, but information issued under Admiralty authority, and now known to be incorrect, causes the utmost difficulty in procuring vessels to visit it, agents and masters being afraid to vitiate insurance policies. I know of no instance of wreck or damage having occurred to any vessel visiting Geographe Bay, in which the head station of the Western Australian Timber Company is situate; and it is essential to the progress of the Company, and indeed to that of the community, that some steps should be taken to remove the prejudices that exist against that and other Western Australian ports. This is a matter not alone affecting the trade in this Colony, and if it is hopeless to expect assistance at Imperial cost, it would be desirable to adopt some such arrangement as that under which coast surveys have been carried out in the Eastern Colonies, the cost being borne partly by Imperial and partly by colonial funds.

Jarrah Timber.

10. The demand for Jarrah timber is greatly on the increase, the Company at Geographe Bay formed for exporting it have their mills erected and some ten miles of railway completed. They now profess to be ready to execute orders to any extent, and there is no probability that those orders will be wanting. The Melbourne Company, who propose to make their head-quarters at Rockingham, and to follow out the plan suggested by Mr. Doyne, C.E., have completed their arrangements and propose to commence operations without delay.

Immigration.

11. The great drawback to commencing any new undertaking in Western Australia is the difficulty experienced in procuring good labour.

The class of labour available is, in the majority of cases, of an exceedingly inferior kind: men of the convict class, who have never worked and who never will work if they can live by any other means.

Notwithstanding this difficulty, I do not conceive that it would at the present time be wise to take any steps to induce immigration on a large scale. The gradual employment of larger capital and the consequent demand for good labour at remunerative terms will probably do more to induce a supply from the Eastern Colonies, and those so coming would probably be content to remain, whereas the majority of immigrants direct from England are disappointed to find that fortunes are not at once to be commanded, and are uneasy till they migrate to Sydney or Melbourne, only to realize greater disappointment.

Pauperism.

12. The class of labour to which I have alluded leaves its burden on public funds in the shape of pauperism. The cost for the maintenance of paupers is daily on the increase, and forms a considerable item of expenditure. In one establishment in Perth there are at the present time 75 male inmates, a large majority of whom are ex-convicts, not one of whom will ever again do a day's work, and the entire cost of whose maintenance is borne by the Colony. This is one among many of the legacies of the convict system, regarding which it may be matter of considerable doubt whether the benefits or evils have predominated.

New Industries.

13. Though there have been many matters of depression of late, there is still a bright side of the picture, and it may be desirable to note the growing interest evinced in the cultivation of the vine and mulberry. For both these the soil and climate of the Colony are peculiarly suited, and there is now fair reason to believe they will be cultivated extensively.

Gold.

14. Some excitement was evinced during the past year on more than one occasion by the discovery of gold in small quantities over considerable tracts of country, and prospecting parties, more or less systematically organized, were started in various parts. For want of means, and probably experience, little was effected beyond the undoubted fact that gold existed, and in country the geological features of which were in many respects similar to the auriferous districts in Victoria. Since the close of the year, Mr. H. Y. L. Brown, the Government Geologist, has reported the discovery of a large patch of country north-east of Champion Bay, the rocks of which he reports to be identical with the gold-bearing rocks of Victoria, and he is now engaged in testing the opinions he has confidently formed as to the deposit of gold. Opinions from such a source carry weight with them, and as Mr. Brown is known to be a cautious man and a good geolo-

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gist, there are many anxiously awaiting his expected return about the end of the present month.

Ecclesiastical.

15. Reverting to Paragraph 5, it may be well to observe that the result of the Census showing a very material alteration in the numbers of the several religious denominations, it became necessary to revise the grants of public funds to the several ecclesiastical bodies. The predominance hitherto in some degree shown to the Church of England has been removed, and each denomination placed on the same footing. This was effected by the liberality of the Legislature in voting additional funds for those bodies whose number had increased; and thus it became unnecessary to take from one denomination to give to another. Moreover, the status, salary, and claims of each clergyman holding office at the time the change was made have been distinctly recognized by the Legislature.

* * * * *

Crime.

16. In the Supreme Court there were 46 prisoners convicted in 1870 as against 36 in 1869; the increased number is principally caused by the conviction of six aboriginal natives of murder *inter se*, and one of a grievous assault. Of convictions at Petty Sessions I am glad to report a reduction of nearly 1,000, the numbers being 4,561 in 1869, and 3,667 in 1870. The convictions for drunkenness alone were 600 less than in 1869, and this alone may be looked on as a matter for congratulation.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) FRED. P. BARLEE.

Governor Weld,
&c., &c.

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No. 19.

No. 19.

STATISTICAL REPORT.

To the Honourable WILLIAM GISBORNE, Colonial Secretary, &c.

Registrar-General's Office, Wellington,
January 5, 1872.

SIR,

Previous publication of most of the information summarized in this Report.

IT having been determined that, in order to lay before the Parliament of the Colony, with the least possible delay, a considerable amount of statistical information which was immediately desired, certain principal results of the Census of New Zealand taken in February, 1871, as well as important portions of the general sta-

tistics for the year ended December 31st, 1870, should be issued in separate divisions as speedily as they could be respectively got ready, several series of Tables relating to these subjects were presented, by his Excellency's command, to the General Assembly at successive periods of the late session. These, however, were not accompanied by any "Report" (unless a brief memorandum, prefixed to each division, describing its contents, might be called so), the intention then being that the usual formal and lengthened "Report" should be reserved for the publication of the completed Statistical volume. But as some further time will be required for the final compilations and the printing of portions of the matter to be comprehended in that volume, it is deemed expedient to issue a Report in anticipation, which it is hoped will be acceptable to many (especially to persons living out of, but feeling an interest in, the Colony) who may not have seen the Tables above referred to (which were issued as "Parliamentary Papers"), or who, in any case, would prefer summarized views and comments within a comparatively small compass, to the copious, and sometimes apparently complicated, details of the Tables themselves. Such a Report is that which I have the honour to offer in the following pages. It includes compendiously the substance of the information, both as to the Census results, with the Agricultural Statistics, in February, 1871, and the General Statistics for 1870, which has already been issued, with additional information on various matters from Tables compiled and corrected, but not yet printed.

Reason for issue of the present Report.

PART I.

CENSUS, 27TH FEBRUARY, 1871.

The Census of the Colony had, since 1858, been taken (triennially) in the month of December; but on the late occasion it was judged expedient to postpone it until the end of February last, and then to take it under arrangements which comprehended also the collection of the agricultural statistics of New Zealand, required by the Census Acts Amendment Acts, 1867 and 1870, to be made annually, and for which collection the month of February is considered the most favourable time in this country. The night of the 27th February was fixed as that for which the enumeration of the people should be made.

Population.

The population of New Zealand at this date, as shown by the Census Returns (exclusive of aboriginal natives), was 256,393, of whom 150,356 were males, and 106,037 females.

Population of Colony as shown by Census.

The distribution of this population through the principal divisions of the Colony was as follows:—Province of Auckland, males, 35,502; females, 26,833; total, 62,335: Province of Taranaki, males, 2,572; females, 1,908; total, 4,480: Province of Wellington, males, 13,180; females, 10,821; total, 24,001: Province of Hawke's Bay, males, 3,596; females 2,463; total, 6,059: Province of Nelson, males, 14,257; females, 8,244; total, 22,501: Province

Of each province.

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of Marlborough, males, 3,235; females 2,000; total, 5,235: Province of Canterbury, males, 25,781; females, 21,020; total, 46,801: County of Westland, males, 10,453; females, 4,904; total, 15,357: Province of Otago (as before re-union with Southland),* males, 36,771; females, 23,951; total, 60,722: Province of Southland (as before re-union with Otago),* males, 4,920; females, 3,849; total, 8,769. To which is to be added the population of the Chatham Islands, namely, males, 89, females 44, total 133, to make up the general total as stated above. Thus it will be seen that the Northern Island (comprising the Provinces of Auckland, Taranaki, Wellington, and Hawke's Bay) contained 96,875 persons, or 37·78 per cent.; and the Middle Island (comprising the Provinces of Nelson, Marlborough, and Canterbury, the County of Westland, and the Province of Otago (including Southland), 159,518, or 62·22 per cent. of the whole population of the Colony.

Of the Northern and Middle Islands respectively.

Comparison with Census of December, 1867.

Comparing the numbers as ascertained by the last Census with those shown by the Census of December, 1867, there appears a net increase on the population of the Colony within that period (three years and nearly two months) of 37,725 persons, viz. 18,427 males, and 19,298 females, being 13·96 per cent. on males; 22·24 per cent. on females; and 17·25 per cent. on the total of persons.

The following was the increase or decrease within the period in each of the provinces (and the County of Westland) :—

Auckland - -	Numerical increase,	14,014,	or 29·00	per cent.
Taranaki - -	„	„	121, „ 2·77	„
Wellington -	„	„	2,051, „ 9·34	„
Hawke's Bay - -	„	„	776, „ 14·68	„
Nelson - -	„	decrease,	1,313, „ 5·51	„
Marlborough - -	„	increase,	864, „ 19·76	„
Canterbury -	„	„	8,468, „ 22·09	„
Westland - -	„	decrease,	176, „ 1·13	„
Otago - -	„	increase,	12,145, „ 25·00	„
Southland - -	„	„	826, „ 10·39	„

Comparison with previous Censuses.

A comparative Table of population in December, 1858, December, 1861, December, 1864, December, 1867, and February, 1871, with the numerical and centesimal increase or decrease in each province in the respective periods, which was prepared for the Abstracts of Census Results laid before the General Assembly, may, I think, be advantageously introduced here, as it exhibits a large amount of information on this branch of the Statistics in a very condensed form.

Population of towns.

The enumerators were instructed to arrange for separate returns of the population in the chief town of each province, and also in each town having a population amounting to 500, in February,

* "The Otago and Southland Union Act, 1870," came into operation on the 6th of October, 1870, but as the interval between this date and the taking of the Census was so short, it was deemed advisable in this instance (for purposes of comparison with former Censuses) to ascertain the information for the respective territories as before. It will be understood that the figures given for both together apply to the Province of Otago as it is now constituted.

CENSUS OF NEW ZEALAND, FEBRUARY, 1871.—No. II.

COMPARATIVE TABLE showing the POPULATION (exclusive of aboriginal natives) of the COLONY of NEW ZEALAND in December, 1858, December, 1861, December, 1864, December, 1867, and February, 1871; with the Numerical and Centesimal Increase or Decrease in each Province in the respective Periods 1858–61, 1861–64, 1864–67, and December, 1867, to February, 27, 1871.

Provinces.	Census.	Population.			Increase or Decrease in each Period.					
					Numerical.			Centesimal.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
AUCKLAND	1858	10,218	7,959	18,177	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	13,494	10,926	24,420	3,276	2,967	6,243	32·06	37·27	34·34
	1864	25,686	16,446	42,132	12,192	5,520	17,712	90·35	50·52	72·53
	1867	27,063	21,258	48,321	1,377	4,812	6,189	5·36	29·25	14·68
	1871	35,502	26,833	62,335	8,439	5,575	14,014	31·18	26·22	29·00
TARANAKI	1858	1,414	1,236	2,650	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	1,169	875	2,044	*dcr.* 245	*dcr.* 361	*dcr.* 606	*dcr.* 17·32	*dcr.* 29·20	*dcr.* 22·86
	1864	2,872	1,502	4,374	1,703	627	2,330	145·68	71·65	113·99
	1867	2,528	1,831	4,359	*dcr.* 344	329	*dcr.* 15	*dcr.* 11·97	21·90	*dcr.* 0·34
	1871	2,572	1,908	4,480	44	77	121	1·74	4·20	2·77
WELLINGTON	1858	6,524	5,229	11,753	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	6,626	5,940	12,566	102	711	813	1·56	13·59	6·91
	1864	8,342	6,645	14,987	1,716	705	2,421	25·89	11·86	19·26
	1867	12,401	9,549	21,950	4,059	2,904	6,963	48·65	43·70	46·46
	1871	13,180	10,821	24,001	779	1,272	2,051	6·28	13·32	9·34
HAWKE'S BAY	1858	1,063	451	1,514	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	1,667	944	2,611	604	493	1,097	56·82	109·31	72·45
	1864	2,457	1,313	3,770	794	365	1,159	47·63	38·66	44·38
	1867	3,197	2,086	5,283	740	773	1,513	30·11	58·87	40·13
	1871	3,596	2,463	6,059	399	377	776	12·48	18·07	14·68
NELSON (including Marlborough in 1858)	1858	5,203	4,069	9,272	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	5,337	4,615	9,952	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1864	6,706	5,204	11,910	1,369	589	1,958	25·65	12·76	19·67
	1867	16,425	7,389	23,814	9,719	2,185	11,904	144·92	41·98	99·94
	1871	14,257	8,244	22,501	*dcr.* 2,168	855	*dcr.* 1,313	*dcr.* 13·19	11·57	*dcr.* 5·51
MARLBOROUGH	1861	1,503	796	2,299	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1864	4,032	1,487	5,519	2,529	691	3,220	168·26	86·80	140·06
	1867	2,736	1,635	4,371	*dcr.* 1,296	148	*dcr.* 1,148	*dcr.* 32·14	9·95	*dcr.* 20·80
	1871	3,235	2,000	5,235	499	365	864	18·23	22·32	19·76
CANTERBURY	1858	5,301	3,666	8,967	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	8,939	7,101	16,040	3,638	3,435	7,073	68·62	93·69	78·87
	1864	18,931	13,345	32,276	9,992	6,244	16,236	111·77	87·93	101·22
(Exclusive of WESTLAND)	1867	21,206	17,127	38,333	2,275	3,782	6,057	12·01	28·34	18·76
	1871	25,781	21,020	46,801	4,575	3,893	8,468	21·57	22·73	22·09
WESTLAND	1867	11,877	3,656	15,533	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1871	10,453	4,904	15,357	*dcr.* 1,424	1,248	*dcr.* 176	*dcr.* 11·98	34·13	*dcr.* 1·13
OTAGO (including Southland in 1858)	1858	3,904	3,091	6,995	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	21,161	6,002	27,163	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1864	32,692	16,327	49,019	11,531	10,325	21,856	54·49	172·02	80·46
	1867	29,773	18,804	48,577	*dcr.* 2,919	2,477	*dcr.* 442	*dcr.* 892	15·17	*dcr.* 0·90
(As before re-union with SOUTHLAND)	1871	36,771	23,951	60,722	6,998	5,147	12,145	23·50	27·37	25·00
SOUTHLAND	1861	1,139	737	1,876	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1864	4,806	3,279	8,085	3,667	2,542	6,209	321·94	344·91	330·97
	1867	4,600	3,343	7,943	*dcr.* 206	64	*dcr.* 142	*dcr.* 4·28	1·95	*dcr.* 1·76
(As before re-union with OTAGO)	1871	4,920	3,849	8,769	320	506	826	6·95	15·13	10·39
CHATHAM ISLANDS	1858	52	33	85	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	27	23	50	*dcr.* 25	*dcr.* 10	*dcr.* 35	*dcr.* 48·07	*dcr.* 30·30	*dcr.* 41·17
	1864	56	30	86	29	7	36	107·40	30·43	72·00
	1867	123	61	184	67	31	98	119·64	103·33	113·95
	1871	89	44	133	*dcr.* 34	*dcr.* 17	*dcr.* 51	*dcr.* 27·64	*dcr.* 27·86	*dcr.* 27·71
TOTALS FOR THE COLONY	1858	33,679	25,734	59,413	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	61,062	37,959	99,021	27,383	12,225	39,608	44·84	32·20	39·99
	1864	106,580	65,578	172,158	45,518	27,619	73,187	74·54	72·76	73·86
	1867	131,929	86,739	218,668	25,349	21,161	46,510	23·79	32·26	27·01
	1871	150,356	106,037	256,393	18,427	19,298	37,725	13·96	22·24	17·25

In every case in which there was a decrease, it has been marked ("*dcr.*") in the above Table.

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1871. This information is compendiously shown in the following Table:—

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Province of Auckland:—			
Auckland	6,779	6,158	12,937
Parnell	1,709	1,854	3,563
Newton	1,977	1,980	3,957
Onehunga	967	946	1,913
Shortland	1,942	1,596	3,538
Grahamstown	1,340	914	2,254
Province of Taranaki:—			
New Plymouth	895	942	1,837
Province of Wellington:—			
Wellington	4,052	3,856	7,908
Wanganui	1,256	1,134	2,390
Province of Hawke's Bay:—			
Napier	1,166	1,013	2,179
Province of Nelson:—			
Nelson	2,728	2,806	5,534
Westport	519	359	878
Cobden	525	192	717
Charleston	965	389	1,354
Province of Marlborough:—			
Picton	367	269	636
Blenheim	396	345	741
Province of Canterbury:—			
Christchurch	4,016	3,915	7,931*
Lyttelton	1,427	1,124	2,551
Kaiapoi	442	426	868
Timaru	729	689	1,418
Rangiora	396	367	763
County of Westland:—			
Hokitika	1,938	1,634	3,572
Greymouth	1,252	929	2,181
Province of Otago:—			
Dunedin	7,587	7,270	14,857
Port Chalmers	824	582	1,406
Oamaru	886	771	1,657
Province of Southland:—			
Invercargill	964	996	1,960

* This is the population of what is described by the enumerator as "the city proper—that is, within the town belt;" but the aggregate population of Christchurch and its suburbs (as shown in the returns for the electoral districts of "City of Christchurch East" and "City of Christchurch West") was 12,466, viz. M., 6,286; F., 6,180.

Aboriginal native population.

An accurate Census of the aboriginal native population would no doubt be extremely interesting, were it practicable. But at present it is only possible to give an estimate more or less approximate of the numbers. Such an estimate (based upon various returns and other information) I have obtained from the Native Secretary's Office. According to it the total native population may be stated as about 37,502; viz., in the Northern Island 35,149, and in the Middle Island 2,353. The estimated native population in 1867 was 38,540.

Relative Proportions of Sexes.

Proportion of the sexes in the Colony.

The number of males in New Zealand (exclusive of aboriginal natives) was, according to the Census of February 1871, 150,356, or 58·64 per cent., and the number of females 106,037, or 41·36 per cent. of the whole population. The following figures will show for each province separately the centesimal proportions of males and

females respectively to the population of the province, and the centesimal excess of males in each province:—

Province.	Males.	Females.	Centesimal excess of Males.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Auckland - - - -	56·95	43·05	13·90
Taranaki - - - - -	57·41	42·59	14·82
Wellington - - - -	54·91	45·09	9·82
Hawke's Bay - - - -	59·35	40·65	18·70
Nelson - - - - -	63·36	36·64	26·72
Marlborough - - - -	61·79	38·21	23·58
Canterbury - - - -	55·08	44·92	10·16
Westland (County) - - -	68·06	31·94	36·12
Otago - - - - -	60·56	39·44	21·12
Southland - - - - -	56·11	43·89	12·22
Averages for the Colony -	58·64	41·36	17·28

Proportions in previous Census years.

On comparison with previous Censuses on this interesting matter, it is found that the excess of males in 1858 was 13·36 per cent.; in 1861 it was 23·34, and in 1864, 23·82, the remarkable increase, as compared with 1858, being to a considerable extent explained by the great influx of miners to the gold-fields of the Colony, very many of whom were unmarried, or had left their wives and families in other countries. It is gratifying to observe that, notwithstanding the continuance of this element of disparity, the Census of 1867 showed some tendency towards an equalization of the numbers of the sexes, the excess of males being reduced to 20·66, while the late Census (February, 1871) shows a further reduction of this excess to 17·28.

Civil or Conjugal Condition of the People.

Proportions of married and unmarried.

The last Census shows the following totals for the Colony: married males, 39,759, being 15·51 per cent on the whole population, and 26·44 per cent. on the total number of males; married females, 38,132, being 14·87 per cent. on the whole population, and 35·96 per cent. on the total number of females; unmarried males (including widowers and male children), 108,274, being 42·23 per cent. on the whole population, and 72·01 per cent. on the total number of males; unmarried females (including widows and female children), 67·631, being 26·38 per cent. on the whole population, and 63·78 per cent. on the total number of females. The numbers of widowers and widows included are 2,840 widowers and 3,229 widows. The numbers "not stated" (with regard to whom no information as to "condition" was obtained) was 2,597; viz. 2,323 males, and 274 females.

Proportions aged fifteen and upwards.

If we deduct from the totals of "unmarried," the persons under fifteen years of age, the numbers remaining are: males, 57,088; females, 17,468. The proportions between the sexes from the age of fifteen and upwards is thus shown to be 76·57 per cent. of males, and 23·43 per cent. of females. The proportions in 1867 were 79·39 per cent. of males, and 20·61 per cent. of females.

The information thus arrived at may be expressed otherwise as follows:—Of every 100 of the total male population 26·44 per cent.

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were married, and 37·97 aged 15 and upwards, with 34·04 under 15, were unmarried (there being 1·55 whose "condition" was not stated); and of every 100 of the total female population 35·96 were married, and 16·47, aged 15 and upwards, with 47·31 under 15, were unmarried, there being 0·26 whose "condition" was not stated.

Dwellings of the People.

Numbers of dwellings.

The total number of inhabited houses or dwellings in the Colony in February, 1871, was 57,182, against 54,015 in December, 1867, being an increase of 3,167 within the period. A classification of these dwellings, according to numbers of rooms, shows that there

Numbers of rooms.

were, in 1871, 11,949 of six rooms and upwards, against 9,861 in 1867; of five rooms, in 1871, 4,497 against 3,543 in 1867; of four rooms, in 1871, 10,200 against 7,844 in 1867; of three rooms, in 1871, 7,538 against 6,209 in 1867; and of one or two rooms (in which tents are included), 22,998 in 1871, against 26,558 in 1867. The number of tents (principally found in the gold-fields districts) included in 1871 was 2,404, against 4,595 in 1867. The decrease in the general total of the lowest class of dwellings is shown by the above figures to have been much more than covered by the increase in the general total of dwellings of a higher and better description.

Materials.

A classification of the materials of which the dwellings were constructed shows the following results:—Wood, 45,951 in 1871, against 38,844 in 1867; stone or brick, 1,540 against 1,182 in 1867; and other materials (including raupo houses and the tents above referred to), 9,691 against 13,989 in 1867.

Dwellings in respective provinces.

Taking the provinces separately, the following were the numbers and materials of the (inhabited) dwellings in each, viz.:—Auckland, 13,667: viz. wood, 12,321; stone or brick, 293; other materials, 1,053. Taranaki, 987: viz. wood, 854; stone or brick, 1; other materials, 132. Wellington, 4,779: viz. wood, 4,484; stone or brick, 18; other materials, 277. Hawke's Bay, 1,215: viz. wood 1,130; stone or brick, 2; other materials, 83. Nelson, 5,819: viz. wood, 4,345; stone or brick, 31; other materials, 1,443. Marlborough, 1,012: viz. wood, 816; stone or brick, 2; other materials 194. Canterbury, 8,747: viz. wood, 6,725; stone or brick, 236; other materials, 1,786. Westland (Co.), 5,457: viz. wood, 5,003; stone or brick, 0; other materials, 454. Otago, 13,732: viz. wood, 8,699; stone or brick, 923; other materials, 4,140. Southland, 1,731: viz. wood, 1,590; stone or brick, 32; other materials, 109.

Proportion of population to each dwelling.

The proportion of the population to each dwelling, calculated on the Census Returns of the respective years, was 4·48 in 1871, against 4·04 in 1867.

The sub-enumerators were furnished with special forms for returns of uninhabited houses and houses building in their respective sub-districts. But on this, as on previous occasions, some uncertainty

Uninhabited houses.

attaches to the part of these results relating to uninhabited houses, it being evident that while in several instances they include stores, shops, offices, &c., which were occupied during the daytime (only),

in many other instances there were not any means of accurately ascertaining from them whether or not such buildings were counted as "uninhabited." The aggregate number so returned was in 1871, 7,347 against 6,727 in 1867. The number of "houses building" at the time of the Census in 1871 was 642 (of which 508 were to be of wood, 64 of stone or brick, and 70 of other materials), against 702 in December, 1867 (viz. 550 of wood, 51 of stone or brick, and 101 of other materials).

Houses building.

Places of Birth.

The information supplied by the Census of 1871 with respect to the places of birth of the population is shown compendiously in the subjoined tabular view, which includes a comparison with the Census of 1867, exhibiting the numbers of the population born in each of the countries specified, the increase or decrease (numerical and proportionate) in 1871, and the proportion per cent. of each nationality to the totals of the population of the Colony at the respective dates:—

PLACES OF BIRTH.

Places of Birth.	Population.		Increase or Decrease in 1871.		Proportion per cent. of each Nationality, to the respective Totals of Population.	
	1867.	1871.	Numerical.	Proportionate.	1867.	1871.
England	65,614	67,044	*I.* 1,430	*I.* 2·17	30·01	26·15
Ireland	27,955	29,733	*I.* 1,778	*I.* 6·36	12·78	11·60
Scotland	34,826	36,871	*I.* 2,045	*I.* 5·86	15·93	14·38
Wales	1,319	1,345	*I.* 26	*I.* 1·97	0·60	0·52
New Zealand	64,052	93,474	*I.* 29,422	*I.* 45·93	29·29	36·46
Australian Colonies	11,313	12,426	*I.* 1,113	*I.* 9·83	5·17	4·85
Other British Dominions	3,798	4,062	*I.* 264	*I.* 6·95	1·74	1·58
United States of America	1,213	1,249	*I.* 36	*I.* 2·96	0·56	0·49
France	553	551	*D.* 2	*D.* 0·36	0·25	0·22
Germany	2,838	2,416	*D.* 422	*D.* 14·86	1·30	0·94
Other foreign countries (including China)	3,667	5,859	*I.* 2,192	*I.* 59·77	1·68	2·28
At sea	751	823	*I.* 72	*I.* 9·58	0·34	0·32
Not specified	769	540	*D.* 229	*D.* 29·77	0·35	0·21
	218,668	256,393	*I.* 37,725	*I.* 17·25	100·00	100·00

Occupations.

As on former similar occasions, the result of much labour in this office has not been to attain means of presenting satisfactorily the occupations of the people in the detailed modes of classification published in some other countries. I may repeat what I stated on this subject in my Report on the Census of 1867:—"The difficulties, "which I have previously more than once pointed out continue to "impede any attempt to tabulate this branch of the Census infor- "mation in New Zealand without incurring the risk of showing con- "clusions which would almost certainly be misleading in effect, how- "ever close may be their merely verbal accordance with the house- "hold schedules. Amongst the causes of this difficulty continue to "be the great number of cases in which settlers follow more than

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"one occupation; the instances (probably frequent) in which they "enter in the schedules the professions or callings to which they "were brought up, or with which they would prefer to be identified "(perhaps from a notion of their superior 'respectability') rather "than those in which they are most habitually engaged, or from "which they principally derive their maintenance; the vagueness of "many of the descriptions; and the different names given to what may "be regarded as really the same business." The Tables containing the results of the compilation which has been made are not yet printed, and will undergo some further examination; but the following summary (prepared on the plan of summaries introduced in former Reports) will give a general view of the proportions in which the colonists are engaged in the chief employments and pursuits, including a comparison with the respective numbers in 1867:—

Occupations.	Population.		Increase or Decrease in 1871.		Proportions of Occupations to the Population.	
	1867.	1871.	Numerical.	Proportionate.	1867.	1871.
Trade, commerce, and manufactures	10,194	11,079	*I.* 885	*I.* 8·68	4·66	4·32
Agricultural and pastoral	18,863	20,587	*I.* 1,724	*I.* 9·13	8·63	8·03
Mechanics, artificers, and skilled workers	13,695	16,026	*I.* 2,331	*I.* 17·01	6·26	6·25
Mining	20,372	21,226	*I.* 864	*I.* 4·24	9·32	8·28
Professions, clerical, medical, and legal	733	846	*I.* 113	*I.* 15·43	0·33	0·33
Teachers, surveyors, and other educated professions	1,477	1,937	*I.* 460	*I.* 31·14	0·67	0·76
Labourers	13,025	14,312	*I.* 1,287	*I.* 9·88	5·96	5·58
Domestic and general servants	7,259	7,017	*D.* 242	*D.* 3·33	3·32	2·74
Miscellaneous	10,420	11,913	*I.* 1,493	*I.* 14·32	4·77	4·65
Domestic duties, or no occupation stated (principally women and children)	122,630	151,450	*I.* 28,820	*I.* 23·50	56·08	59·06
	218,668	256,393	*I.* 37,725	*I.* 17·25	100·00	100·00

Religious Denominations.

Basis of compilation.

The list of "religious bodies" in Schedule D. of "The Marriage "Act, 1854" (as amended by "The Marriage Act Amendment Act, "1867") has, as heretofore, been made the basis of the compilation of the Census results relating to religious denominations in 1871. To the columns for the bodies specified in that list has been added one for the large number (4,852, or 1·90 of the population of the Colony) returned as "Protestants" without any more distinctive designation. An altogether new column has now been rendered necessary by "The Census Acts Amendment Act, 1870," which provided that when any person objects to state whether he belongs to any or what religious denomination, he may enter the word "object" in the Census form. The number of persons returned as availing themselves of this permission was 8,630, or 3·36 per cent. of the whole population.

Persons who "object" to state any denomination.

The number of 6,097 "otherwise described," includes 2,612

returned as "Pagans, Chinese, or Heathen;" and, in addition to these, a very large variety of entries which could not be brought under any of the specified headings, and which cannot be dealt with until the final completion of the Table (not yet printed).

Not described.

The number "not described" in any way as to religious denomination was 862—a marked diminution from the number (1,752) shown in 1867.

In the subjoined summary will be found figures for 1871 compared with those for 1867, showing for each of those years the numbers of the population returned as belonging to each of the principal denominations; the increase or decrease on each in 1871, both numerically and centesimally; and the centesimal proportion of each denomination to the total population of the Colony in the respective years:—

Denomination.	Population.		Increase or Decrease in 1871.		Proportions to total Population.	
	1867.	1871.	Numerical.	Proportionate.	1867.	1871.
Church of England	92,990	102,389	*I.* 9,399	*I.* 10·10	42·53	39·93
Presbyterian Church	54,929	63,624	*I.* 8,695	*I.* 15·83	25·12	24·82
Roman Catholic Church	30,413	35,608	*I.* 5,195	*I.* 17·08	13·91	13·89
Wesleyan Methodist Church	16,669	19,971	*I.* 3,302	*I.* 19·81	7·62	7·79
Congregational Independents	4,246	3,941	*D.* 305	*D.* 7·48	1·94	1·54
Baptists	4,353	4,732	*I.* 379	*I.* 8·70	1·99	1·84
Primitive Methodists	1,332	1,883	*I.* 551	*I.* 41·36	0·61	0·73
Lutheran Church	2,383	2,341	*D.* 42	*D.* 1·76	1·09	0·91
Hebrews	1,247	1,262	*I.* 15	*I.* 1·20	0·57	0·50
Society of Friends	146	201	*I.* 55	*I.* 37·67	0·07	0·08
Protestants (no particular denomination specified)	3,902	4,852	*I.* 950	*I.* 24·34	1·78	1·98
Otherwise described	4,306	6,097	*I.* 1,791	*I.* 41·59	1·97	2·38
Not described	1,752	862	*D.* 890	*D.* 50·79	0·80	0·33
Objecting to state	—	8,630	—	—	—	3·36
	218,668	256,393	*I.* 37,725	*I.* 17·25	100·00	100·00

Education.

Numbers and proportions able or unable to read or write.

The following general results relating to this most important subject are shown by the Census Returns in 1871:—Of the whole population of the Colony, of both sexes and all ages, there were unable to read or write 58,401, or 23·30 per cent., against 45,411, or 21·40 per cent., in 1867; able to read only 18,810, or 7·50 per cent., against 15,396, or 7·25 per cent., in 1867; and able both to read and write, 173,459, or 69·20 per cent., against 151,431, or 71·35 per cent., in 1867; to which are added 5,723 respecting whose state as to education the schedules contained no information. Deducting these, it appears that, of the population under fifteen years of age, there were able to read or write 32,326, viz. 16,460 males, and 15,866 females; and of the population aged fifteen and upwards, 141,133, viz. 90,297 males, and 50,836 females. The centesimal proportions are as follows:—Under fifteen years of age, cannot read, males, 53·91 per cent.; females, 54·23 per cent; read only, males, 13·27 per cent.; females, 13·50 per cent.; read and write,

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males, 32·82 per cent.; females, 32·27 per cent. Fifteen years and upwards, cannot read, males, 3·08 per cent.; females, 3·14 per cent.; read only, males, 2·74 per cent.; females, 5·21 per cent.; read and write, males, 94·18 per cent.; females, 91·65 per cent. Both sexes and all ages, cannot read, 23·30 per cent. against 21·40 in 1867; read only, 7·50 per cent. against 7·25 in 1867; read and write, 69·20 per cent. against 71·35 in 1867.

Schools.

The subjoined summary shows the numbers returned as attending schools—day, or Sunday, or both—in February, 1871, as compared with the numbers in December, 1867:—

Provinces.	At Day Schools.				At Sunday Schools.			
	Supported by Government aid.		Private, or not receiving Government aid.		At Sunday only.		At both Day and Sunday.	
	1867.	1871.	1867.	1871.	1867.	1871.	1867.	1871.
Auckland	571	1,349	3,258	6,146	1,353	2,091	2,584	5,071
Taranaki	181	163	351	391	194	234	402	365
Wellington	970	888	1,793	2,307	668	974	1,438	1,829
Hawke's Bay	136	405	162	376	60	109	186	416
Nelson	1,668	2,371	650	560	402	407	1,552	2,142
Marlborough	238	232	111	182	81	134	298	294
Canterbury	2,178	2,796	2,297	2,773	1,298	1,654	3,048	3,984
Westland (County) (included with Canterbury in 1867)	—	291	—	943	—	365	—	1,022
Otago	3,298	6,243	1,546	2,312	734	1,278	2,922	5,316
Southland	73	215	471	767	220	288	335	628
Totals	9,313	14,953	10,639	16,757	5,010	7,534	12,765	21,067

"School going" ages.

The nearest approach to what may considered the "school-going period," which is derivable from the Census Returns, is that shown by the numbers between five and fifteen years of age. Within those ages the population in 1871 amounted to 54,771; and the numbers returned as attending day schools to 31,710, being a proportion of 57·89 per cent. on that total, against 47·74 per cent. on the total (41,793) in 1867. Dividing the number within the specified ages, according to the sexes, of the total of males in 1871 (27,817), there were 16,436, or 59·08 per cent. attending day schools, against 48·87 per cent. in 1867; and of the total of females in 1871 (26,954) there were 15,274, or 56·66 per cent. against 46·55 per cent. in 1867. Taking the aggregate population of all ages under fifteen (which in 1871 amounted to 101,349 persons), the proportion attending day schools in 1871 was 31·28, against 25·20 in 1867.

General conclusions.

The returns (although the entries in the household schedules may have been sometimes defective, or not clear, as to the distinction between different classes of schools), yet satisfactorily bring out the conclusions that in 1871 there were at least 31,710 scholars attending schools (public or private) in the Colony, against 19,952 in 1867; and that (including those attending Sunday schools only, and those attending both day and Sunday schools) there were 28,601 receiving Sunday school instruction in 1871, against 17,778 in 1867. The numbers of those receiving education at home cannot, of course, be

exhibited in these or any similar returns; but to repeat, as equally applicable now, a sentence in the Report for 1867, "the existence, "extent, and value of home education in New Zealand should never "be lost sight of or treated as unimportant in any comprehensive esti- "mate of the means in operation for the intellectual and moral training "of the youth of the Colony."

Land and Crops.

A large amount of information relating to land in occupation, cultivations, and crops was obtained by the almost simultaneous taking of the Census, and collection of the agricultural statistics under the provisions of the Census Acts Amendment Acts, 1867 and 1870. The details must necessarily be found only in the copious Tables, some of which have already been issued as Parliamehtary Papers, and the whole of which will appear in the Statistical Volume. Such a general view as can be introduced here is subjoined. It will be nnderstood that the land and cultivations of aboriginal natives are not included.

Extent of holdings, freehold and leasehold.

The extent of holdings in the Colony in February, 1871, was returned as 22,774,498 acres (against 18,762,057 acres in December, 1867), viz.: freehold, 5,647,838 acres (against 5,068,440 acres in 1867), and leasehold, 17,126,660 acres in 1871 (against 13,693,617 acres in 1867). In the returns for 1871 a distinction was made between "leasehold land, including Crown land rented for other "than pastoral purposes," which amounted to 2,260,603 acres, and "Crown land rented for pastoral purposes only," which amounted to 14,866,057 acres.

Land fenced.

The total number of acres fenced was 6,778,773, against 3,455,588 in 1867. Here also a distinction was introduced in the returns for 1871 between "land fenced not including movable fencing of wire "or other material," of which there were 2,806,556 acres; and "wire or other movable fencing," of which there were 3,972,217 acres.

Land broken up, but not under crop.

The quantity of land broken up but not under crop, was, in 1871, 116,204 acres, against 94,311 acres in 1867.

Land under crop.

The total quantity of land under crop, as shown by the Census of 1871 (including sown grasses) was, 1,042,042 acres, against 676,909 acres in 1867. In this total were, 77,082 acres of wheat, against 47,786 acres in 1867; 123,135 acres of oats, against 101,563 acres in 1867; 23,071 acres of barley, against 13,136 acres in 1867; 12,901 acres of potatoes, against 14,372 acres in 1867; 776,402 acres of sown grasses, against 472,893 acres in 1867. In other crops there were 29,450 acres, against 27,159 acres in 1867.

So much information with regard to the distribution of these cultivations and crops in the different divisions of the Colony is contained in a condensed form, in the Table which was numbered XI. in the Abstracts of Census Results laid before the General Assembly, that I think it will be advantageous to introduce it here; together with a Table (A), issued as a Summary of the Agricultural Statistics of 1871, compared with 1870, which contains (what is not to be found in the other returns) the estimated produce, so far as the principal crops are concerned, in the several provinces in the respective years.

CENSUS OF NEW ZEALAND,

TABLE showing the EXTENT of HOLDINGS; the NUMBER of ACRES FENCED; the QUANTITY of description of crop, in the COLONY of NEW ZEALAND (exclusive of the land and cultivations

	Extent of Holding.			Land Fenced.		Number of Acres.		
	Number of Acres.			Number of Acres.				
	Freehold.	Leasehold (including Crown Land rented for other than Pastoral purposes).	Crown Land rented for Pastoral purposes only.	Not including Movable Fencing of Wire or other Material.	Wire or other Movable Fencing.	Land broken up but not under Crop.	In Wheat.	In Oats.
Province of Auckland - -	850,363	536,474	97,922	256,024	8,157	13,990	1,133	2,556
„ Taranaki - -	57,587	20,732	361	24,774	2,428	1,323	779	433
„ Wellington -	822,692	330,108	123,879	302,462	106,805	8,494	1,920	3,384
„ Hawke's Bay -	833,460	402,557	570,753	143,178	241,823	5,061	623	813
„ Nelson - -	640,818	159,350	384,021	159,986	360,129	5,948	2,548	4,075
„ Marlborough -	645,364	68,416	904,225	29,582	274,852	2,673	1,417	1,169
„ Canterbury -	557,185	364,418	5,105,190	482,551	1,392,968	41,527	46,598	44,744
County of Westland - -	4,316	2,037	9,797	901	1,237	243	1	126
Province of Otago (as before union with Southland) -	729,427	301,262	6,099,921	748,781	1,319,055	28,408	20,713	54,884
Province of Southland (as before union with Otago) -	500,576	73,350	1,437,188	658,317	255,290	8,537	1,341	10,944
Chatham Islands - - -	6,050	1,899	132,800	—	9,473	—	9	7
Totals - - - -	5,647,838	2,260,603	14,866,057	2,806,556	3,972,217	116,204	77,082	123,135

* The "Totals under Crop" in each line differ from the correct addition of the preceding figures by the numbers including

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS OF

(Taken *separately* under the provisions of the

TABLE A.—ACCOUNT of LAND, of the EXTENT of ONE ACRE or upwards, in CULTIVATION, and February, 1871; with a Comparison (so far as it can be

		Numbers of Holdings.*	In Wheat.		In Oats.	
			Acres (Sown for Grain only).	Estimated Gross Produce (in bushels).	Acres (Sown for Grain only).	Estimated Gross Produce (in bushels).
Province of Auckland - -	1871	1,854	1,082	15,552¾	1,772½	31,393½
„ „ - - -	1870	—	1,544	25,866	1,413	23,262
Province of Taranaki - -	1871	245	872	15,788	433½	9,857½
„ „ - - -	1870	—	1,031½	19,185	251¾	5,466
Province of Wellington - -	1871	1,041	1,868¾	41,408	3,427½	98,106
„ „ - - -	1870	—	2,350	55,082½	3,019½	87,919½
Province of Hawke's Bay - -	1871	269	638	14,866	837¾	23,338
„ „ - -	1870	—	1,079	25,066	829¾	21,440
Province of Nelson - - -	1871	925	2,695¾	39,607½	3,424½	75,967½
„ „ - - -	1870	—	3,123¾	55,522	2,323	56,098
Province of Marlborough - -	1871	226	1,800½	33,994	1,313½	36,737
„ „ - -	1870	—	2,724¾	58,963	965½	28,572
Province of Canterbury - -	1871	2,526	46,073¾	1,016,266	44,370	1,311,801
„ „ - -	1870	—	52,425½	1,461,953½	39,951¾	1,328,880½
County of Westland - - -	1871	109	1	20	34	2,390
„ „ - - -	1870	—	—	—	15½	451
Province of Otago (as before union with Southland) - -	1871	2,446	21,401½	606,820½	55,580½	1,871,681
„ „ „	1870	—	20,861	615,775	42,404	1,519,415
Province of Southland (as before union with Otago) - - -	1871	570	1,410	49,225	10,636¾	341,457½
„ „ „	1870	—	1,023½	32,501	8,302½	258,082
Totals for the Colony -	1871	10,211	77,843½	1,833,547¾	121,829¾	3,802,729
„ „	1870	—	86,162¾	2,349,914	99,475½	3,329,586

* The numbers of holdings shown in the Agricultural Statistics for 1870 are omitted here, as there could be no fair under the crops specified in the headings of the collecting forms for 1871, viz. wheat, oats, barley, hay, and potatoes, which in the present year more full and detailed information was to be obtained by the General Census.

† This information was required for the first time in February, 1871, under the provisions of "The Census Acts

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LAND BROKEN UP, but not under CROP; and the respective NUMBERS of ACRES under each of aboriginal natives), as ascertained by a Census taken for the night of the 27th February, 1871.

NUMBER OF ACRES.													
In Barley.	In Maize or Sorghum.	In Rye or Bere.	In Hay (mown or unmown).	In Sown Grasses (including Land in Hay.)	In Peas or Beans.	In Potatoes.	In Turnips or Rape.	In Mangold, Beet, Carrots, Parsnips, or Onions.	In Garden or Orchard.	In Tobacco	In any other Crop.	Total under Crop.*	In Forest Trees (Plantations of).
199	1,456	539	6,612	173,751	87	3,831	127	175	2,779	2 37/40	284	186,920	126
161	216	22	415	20,643	5	534	48	32	308	1/8	65	23,247	4
740	22	9	4,049	184,245	242	976	39	38	1,283	1 3/20	15	192,914	542
222	52	23	3,137	62,218	23	362	31	76	441	—	68	64,952	265
1,201	20	85	4,166	37,432	435	1,030	515	80	1,490	1/4	212	49,124	1,092
1,922	2	30	1,176	15,914	146	208	7	9	322	55 1/4	45	21,247	105
13,888	89	555	10,765	142,068	1,547	2,089	2,059	930	2,688	3	535	257,793	1,307
—	—	17	219	826	4	259	23	25	245	—	17	1,543	—
3,600	92	1,311	6,892	105,445	278	2,919	3,150	317	2,056	2 1/4	443	195,211	469
1,138	—	13	1,464	33,555	25	664	599	20	423	—	2	48,724	80
—	—	—	8	305	—	29	—	—	17	—	—	367	—
23,071	1,949	2,604	38,903	776,402	2,792	12,901	6,598	1,702	12,052	66 7/8	1,686	1,042,042	3,990

under the heading "Hay (mown or unmown)," which are again given in the figures under the heading "Sown Grasses Land in Hay."

NEW ZEALAND, FEBRUARY, 1871.

Census Acts Amendment Acts, 1867 and 1870.)

of the PRODUCE thereof (so far as the undermentioned CROPS are concerned), in NEW ZEALAND, shown) with the Agricultural Statistics in February, 1870.

IN BARLEY.		IN HAY.		IN POTATOES.		QUANTITY OF LAST YEAR'S CROP REMAINING ON HAND WHEN FORMS WERE FILLED UP.†		
Acres (Sown for Grain only).	Estimated Gross Produce (in bushels).	Acres.	Estimated Gross Produce (in tons).	Acres.	Estimated Gross Produce (in tons).	Wheat (bushels).	Oats (bushels).	Barley (bushels).
135	3,090 1/3	6,062 1/4	5,892 3/4	3,301 1/4	15,640	331	248	10
122	2,448	4,405	5,528	3,796	19,653	—	—	—
163	3,139	351	442	432	2,036 3/4	—	—	—
128 1/4	2,654	289 1/4	378 1/4	638 3/4	3,412 1/4	—	—	—
723 3/4	19,970	3,268 1/4	4,802	770 1/4	5,074	3,356	2,341	117
632 3/4	15,169	3,554	5,770 1/4	983	6,588 3/4	—	—	—
249 1/4	5,642	2,138 3/4	3,423	330	2,108 1/4	678	363	209
373 1/4	8,670	1,672 1/4	2,536 1/4	413	2,184	—	—	—
1,247 1/4	28,063	4,066 1/4	5,388	984 1/4	5,600 1/3	1,297	1,288	2,487
1,271 1/2	33,170	2,359 3/4	3,019 3/4	1,048	5,622	—	—	—
2,421 3/4	63,962	1,204	1,374	191 1/4	934	5,483	564	4,125
2,230 1/4	59,819	689	879 1/4	255 1/4	1,373 1/2	—	—	—
13,189 1/4	308,908 1/4	9,503 3/4	12,205 1/4	1,552 1/4	7,135 3/4	31,668	23,513	29,197
16,063 3/4	504,475 1/4	8,275 1/4	11,158 1/4	1,947 1/4	10,670 1/4	—	—	—
—	—	307	524	139	901	—	—	—
2	20	97 1/2	214	231	1,325	—	—	—
3,676	109,028	5,596 3/4	10,031	2,628 1/4	13,616 3/4	39,581	29,302	46,339
5,743	202,113	4,293	6,228	2,950	16,107	—	—	—
1,060 1/3	35,846	1,820 1/4	2,570 1/4	571 1/4	2,992 1/4	2,697	2,074 1/2	6,279
2,004 1/4	61,288	1,200 3/4	1,476	544 1/4	2,667	—	—	—
22,866 1/4	577,667	34,318 1/4	46,652 1/4	10,900 3/4	56,039 1/4	85,091	59,693 1/3	88,763
28,572	889,826 1/4	26,836 1/4	37,189	12,806 1/4	69,603	—	—	—

Comparison between them and the numbers shown in the returns for the present year, which only give the holdings omitting those under grass *not* for hay, and "Other Crops" which were included in the returns for 1870, and respecting

Amendment Act, 1870."

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Annual Production of Butter and Cheese.

The annual production of butter in the Colony, according to the Returns of February, 1871, was 5,199,072 lbs., against 3,834,252 lbs., in 1867; and of cheese, 2,547,507 lbs., against 1,300,082 lbs. in 1867.

Agricultural Machines.

The numbers of agricultural machines in the Colony were ascertained to be, in 1871, as follow:—Threshing machines, 745, viz. steam, 177; water, 39; horse, 529, against 579 (92 steam, 17 water, 470 horse) in 1867; reaping machines, 1,708, against 736 in 1867; and steam ploughs 26, against 12 in 1867.

Live Stock.

Aggregate number.

The aggregate number of live stock of all kinds (excepting poultry) in 1871 was 10,382,540, against 8,924,520 in 1867.

Numbers of principal kinds.

Taking the principal kinds of live stock separately, the numbers were—horses, 81,078 in 1871, against 65,615 in 1867; cattle, 436,592 in 1871, against 312,835 in 1867; sheep, 9,700,629 in 1871, against 8,418,579 in 1867; and pigs, 151,460 in 1871, against 115,104 in 1867.

PART II.

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1870.

In the remaining portion of this Report it is proposed to present briefly the principal points of information shown in detail in the Tables relating to the General Statistics of New Zealand for the year 1870, which have been above referred to as laid before the Colonial Legislature, and which, with a number of other Tables not yet published, will be included in the forthcoming Statistical Volume.

Immigration and Emigration.

Immigration.

The immigration (over seas) to New Zealand in 1870 amounted to 9,124 persons, of whom 6,178 were males, and 2,946 females. Of the males 5,508 were adults, and 670 children; of the females 2,400 were adults, and 546 children.

Emigration.

The emigration (over seas) from the Colony amounted to 5,547 persons, of whom 4,203 were males, and 1,344 females. Of the males 3,838 were adults, and 365 children; of the females 1,040 were adults, and 304 children.

Net excess.

The net excess of immigration over emigration in 1870 was 3,577, being 64 less than the net excess in 1869.

Taking the divisions of the Colony separately, the excesses of immigration over emigration in 1870 were: In the Province of Auckland, 360; in the Province of Wellington, 178; in the Province of Nelson, 143; in the Province of Canterbury, 1,286; in the Province of Otago, 1,638; and in the Province of Southland, 26. On

the other hand, in the county of Westland, the emigration was 54 in excess of the immigration. NEW ZEALAND.

The following figures show the immigration and emigration in 1870 classified according to the countries from which the immigrants arrived, and to which the emigrants went:— Countries.

Immigration.				Emigration.			
Countries.	M.	F.	Total.	Countries.	M.	F.	Total.
United Kingdom -	2,266	1,749	4,015	United Kingdom -	384	212	596
Australian Colonies	3,517	1,126	4,643	Australian Colonies	3,266	1,008	4,274
Other British ports	9	1	10	Other British ports	9	4	13
Foreign States - -	386	70	456	Foreign States - -	544	120	664

From these figures it will seen that the excess of immigration over emigration, viewed in relation to countries, was: United Kingdom, 3,419, and Australian Colonies, 369. While, on the other hand, there was an excess of emigration over immigration to other British ports and foreign states, amounting to 211.

Births and Deaths.

The total number of births registered in New Zealand during the year 1870 was 10,277—viz. 5,240 males, and 5,037 females. The total in 1869 was 9,718—viz. 4,875 males, and 4,843 females. The increase in 1870 was therefore 559—viz. 365 males, and 194 females. The returns, it will be remembered, show, not the births which have actually occurred, but the births which have been registered during the specified periods. Births.

The total number of deaths registered in 1870 was 2,703—viz. 1,595 males, and 1,108 females. The total in 1869 was 2,721—viz. 1,683 males, and 1,038 females. There appears, therefore, in 1870, as compared with 1869, a decrease of 18 on the whole number of persons—viz. a decrease of 88 on the males, and an increase of 70 on the females. Deaths.

Of the deaths in 1870, 956 (viz. 523 males and 433 females) were under one year of age; 178 (viz. 74 males, and 104 females) one and under two years; 154 (viz. 75 males, and 79 females) two and under five years; making a total of 1,288 (viz. 672 males, and 616 females) or 47·65 per cent. of the whole, under five years.

The general total of deaths includes 117 (viz. 101 males, and 16 females), or 4·32 per cent. of the whole, from drowning, and 142 (viz. 124 males, and 18 females), or 5·25 per cent. of the whole, from various other external causes; making a total of 259 (viz. 225 males, and 34 females) from such causes, being 9·58 per cent. of the deaths during the year.

The proportions of births and deaths to every thousand persons living in each of the last eleven years are shown approximately in the following Table.

These figures show, for 1870, one birth to every twenty-three and a half, and one death to every ninety persons living. The average

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for the eleven years is one birth to every twenty-four, and one death to every seventy-six persons.

Year.	Estimated Population at Middle of Year.	Births.		Deaths.	
		No. Registered in Year.	Ratio per 1,000 Living.	No. Registered in Year.	Ratio per 1,000 Living.
1860	76,390	3,146	41·18	1,091	14·28
1861	89,323	3,441	38·52	1,109	12·41
1862	112,416	4,064	36·15	1,231	10·95
1863	144,930	5,115	35·29	1,983	13·68
1864	168,833	6,501	38·50	2,921	17·30
1865	182,113	7,490	41·12	2,757	15·13
1866	197,360	8,466	42·89	2,540	12·86
1867	211,391	8,918	42·18	2,702	12·78
1868	222,825	9,391	42·14	2,662	11·94
1869	231,934	9,718	41·90	2,721	11·73
1870	242,824	10,277	42·32	2,703	11·13

The excess of births over deaths in 1870 was 7,574, viz. 3,645 males, and 3,929 females. The total excess of registered births over registered deaths in sixteen years—1855 to 1870 inclusive—was 59,577, viz. 27,893 males, and 31,684 females.

Trade and Interchange.

SHIPPING.

Shipping, inwards and outwards.

The numbers and tonnage of vessels entered inwards and cleared outwards at the several ports of New Zealand during the year 1870 were as follow:—The total inwards was 756 vessels, of 273,151 tonnage, being a decrease, as compared with 1869, of 8 in the number of vessels, but an increase of 22,420 in the tonnage. . . . . The total outwards was 766 vessels, of 265,407 tonnage, being a decrease, as compared with 1869, of 5 in the number of vessels, but an increase of 7,643 in the tonnage.

Arrived from.

Of the total of 756 vessels inwards, 76, of 56,874 tonnage, arrived from the United Kingdom; 556, of 184,904 tonnage, from the Australian Colonies and other British possessions; and 124, of 31,373 tonnage, from foreign countries (including the southern whale fisheries). . . . .

Cleared for.

Of the total of 766 vessels outwards, 58, of 43,532, tonnage, cleared for the United Kingdom; 548, of 182,876 tonnage, for the Australian Colonies and other British possessions; and 160, of 38,999 tonnage, for foreign countries (including the southern whale fisheries).

Nationality of vessels.

Of the 756 vessels inwards, 145, of 85,643 tonnage, were British; 553, of 167,869 tonnage, colonial; 45, of 15,361 tonnage, American; 4, of 569 tonnage, German; 3, of 427 tonnage, French; 2, of 1,025 tonnage, Norwegian; 1, of 1,000 tonnage, Russian; 1, of 536 tonnage, Swedish; 1, of 385 tonnage, Hawaiian; and 1, of 336 tonnage, Dutch. . . . . Of the 766 vessels outwards, 133, of 78,197 tonnage were British; 574, of 166,812 tonnage, colonial; 44, of 15,115 tonnage, American; 5, of 2,228 tonnage, Norwegian; 3, of 568 tonnage, German; 3, of 427 tonnage, French; 2, of

673 tonnage, Dutch; 1, of 1,000 tonnage, Russian; and 1, of 387 tonnage, Hawaiian. NEW ZEALAND.

The number of registered vessels belonging to ports in New Zealand on the 31st December, 1870, was 384, of 26,743 tonnage (viz. 323 sailing vessels, of 20,606 tonnage, and 61 steam-vessels of 6,137 tonnage), against 381 vessels of 25,990 tonnage, on the 31st December, 1869. Of these, 184 vessels, of 9,177 tonnage, belonged to the Port of Auckland; 26, of 3,285 tonnage, to the Port of Wellington; 9, of 501 tonnage, to the Port of Napier; 26, of 1,345 tonnage, to the Port of Nelson; 61, of 4,062 tonnage, to the Port of Lyttelton; 71, of 8,184 tonnage, to the Port of Dunedin; and 7, of 189 tonnage, to the Port of Invercargill. Registered vessels (belonging to NewZealand).

Imports and Exports.

The total value of the imports of the Colony in 1870 was 4,639,015*l.* against 4,976,126 in 1869, being a decrease of 337,111*l.* or 6·77 per cent. Imports, total value in 1870, as compared with 1869.

The following figures show the increase or decrease in each of the provinces (and the County of Westland) in 1870, as compared with 1869:—

		£		
Auckland	decrease,	44,808,	or 3·28	per cent.
Taranaki	increase,	3,868,	„ 31·37	„
Wellington	„	18,314,	„ 3·85	„
Hawke's Bay	„	14,919,	„ 18·59	„
Nelson	decrease,	76,016,	„ 20·72	„
Marlborough	increase,	2,941,	„ 48·14	„
Canterbury	decrease,	36,164,	„ 6·61	„
Westland	„	86,644,	„ 17·42	„
Otago (including Southland),	„	133,527,	„ 8·20	„

A comparison of the total value of imports in 1869 and 1870, according to the countries whence they were received, gives the following results:—

	1869.	1870.		
	£	£		£
United Kingdom	2,458,579	2,685,736	increase	227,157
British Colonies	2,280,135	1,759,872	decrease	520,263
Foreign States	237,412	193,407	„	44,005
Totals	4,976,126	4,639,015	decrease	337,111

The total value of the exports from New Zealand in 1870 was 4,822,756*l.*, against 4,224,860 in 1869, being an increase in 1870 of 597,896*l.*, or 14·15 per cent. Excluding the value of imported goods re-exported from the Colony, the total value of exports of New Zealand produce and manufactures in 1870 amounted to 4,544,682*l.*, against 4,090,134*l.* in 1869, being an increase of 454,548*l.*, or 11·11 per cent. Exports, total value in 1870 as compared with 1869.

The two very important exports—gold and wool—demand more particular notice here.

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Gold.

The total value of the gold exported from New Zealand in 1870 was 2,157,585*l.*, produced by the several gold-fields to the following amounts, viz. Auckland, 319,146*l.*; Marlborough, 7,408*l.*; Wellington, 120*l.*; Nelson, 591,510*l.*; County of Westland, 578,707*l.*; Otago, including Southland, 660,694*l.*

The total value of gold exported in 1869 was 2,362,995*l.* There appears therefore a net decrease in 1870, amounting to 205,410*l.* The falling off in amount occurred in Auckland, Nelson and Westland, while in Marlborough and Otago there was an increase. The exact amount of increase or decrease in each case is shown in the following figures:—

VALUE of GOLD EXPORTED in 1869 and in 1870 respectively.

	1869.	1869.	Whether Increase or Decrease.	Amount of Increase or Decrease.
	£	£		£
Produce of the Gold Fields in the Province of Auckland	435,687	319,146	Decrease	116,541
Ditto Province of Marlborough	2,664	7,408	Increase	4,744
Ditto „ Nelson	623,872	591,510	Decrease	32,362
Ditto „ Wellington	—	120	Increase	120
Ditto County of Westland	687,316	578,707	Decrease	108,609
Ditto Province of Otago (including Southland)	613,456	660,694	Increase	47,238
	2,362,995	2,157,585	Decrease	205,410

Large increase in first three quarters of 1871.

[Although, so far as the "General Statistics" are concerned, this Report applies to the year 1870, it seems proper to note here that the gold returns published in the 'Gazette' for the first three quarters of 1871 show a large increase. The total quantity of gold exported from 1st January to 30th September amounted to 576,364 ounces, of the total value of 2,191,205*l.*, being 33,620*l.* more than the total value for the whole of the year 1870. This advance is to be attributed to the greatly increased productiveness of the gold-fields in the Province of Auckland, the export of which for the three quarters referred to being, in quantity, 275,464 ounces; in value, 987,605*l.*; being an increase of 189,930 ounces, of the value of 668,459*l.* over the export from the Auckland gold-fields for the whole of the year 1870.]

The total quantity of gold exported from New Zealand from the 1st April, 1857, to the 31st December, 1870, was 5,542,849 ounces; the total value, 21,565,479*l.*

Wool.

The total quantity of wool exported in 1870 was 37,039,763 lbs., against 27,765,636 lbs. in 1869, being an increase of 9,274,127 lbs. The total value stated for 1870 was 1,703,944*l.*, against 1,371,230*l.* in 1869, showing an increase of 332,714, or 24·26 per cent.

Revenue of the Colony.

Customs revenue.

The Customs revenue in 1870 amounted to 765,930*l.*, against 823,511*l.* in 1869, being a decrease of 57,581*l.*, or 6·99 per cent.

Comparison for ten years.

The following figures show the comparative amounts realized by this branch of the revenue during the ten years 1861 to 1870 inclusive:—

		£		
1861 -	260,863, being an increase of	71,695,	or 37·90	per cent.
1862 -	399,436, „ „	138,573,	„ 53·12	„
1863 -	592,050, „ „	192,614,	„ 48·22	„
1864 -	592,346, „ „	296,	„ 0·05	„
1865 -	730,008, „ „	137,662,	„ 23·24	„
1866 -	844,267, „ „	114,259,	„ 15·65	„
1867 -	843,997, being a decrease of	270,	„ 0·03	„
1868 -	788,829, „ „	55,168,	„ 6·53	„
1869 -	823,511, being an increase of	34,682,	„ 4·39	„
1870 -	765,930, being a decrease of	57,581,	„ 6·99	„

Ordinary revenue.

The total ordinary revenue in 1870 amounted to 960,368, against 1,025,516 in 1869, being a decrease of 65,148, or 6·35 per cent.

Territorial revenue.

The total territorial revenue in 1870 amounted to 327,589, against 382,070*l.* in 1869, being a decrease of 54,481, or 14·25 per cent.

General total.

The general total of the revenue (both ordinary and territorial) amounted in 1870 to 1,287,957*l.*, against 1,407,586 in 1869, being a decrease of 119,629*l.*, or 8·49 per cent.

Comparison of revenue in 1869 and 1870.

The subjoined Table exhibits a comparative view of the revenue, ordinary and territorial, in the several provinces in 1869 and 1870, specifying the centesimal increase or decrease in each province in the latter year:—

	Ordinary Revenue.			Territorial Revenue.			Total Ordinary and Territorial.		
	1869.	1870.	Centesimal Increase or Decrease.	1869.	1870.	Centesimal Increase or Decrease.	1869.	1870.	Centesimal Increase or Decrease.
Provinces—	£.	£		£	£		£	£	
Auckland -	250,624	222,565	*D.* 11·19	41,786	23,454	*D.* 43·87	292,410	246,019	*D.* 15·86
Taranaki -	8,406	8,241	*D.* 1·96	—	97	*I.* 97·00	8,406	8,338	*D.* 0·80
Wellington	97,436	96,692	*D.* 0·76	7,935	6,529	*D.* 17·71	105,371	103,221	*D.* 2·04
Hawke's Bay	31,904	33,463	*I.* 4·88	3,305	5,771	*I.* 74·61	35,209	39,234	*I.* 11·43
Nelson -	91,735	86,424	*D.* 5·78	36,965	34,306	*D.* 7·19	128,700	120,730	*D.* 6·19
Marlborough	8,718	10,611	*I.* 21·71	5,584	5,336	*D.* 4·44	14,302	15,947	*I.* 11·50
Canterbury -	125,831	128,933	*I.* 2·46	64,840	68,490	*I.* 5·62	190,671	197,423	*I.* 3·54
County—									
Westland -	104,266	86,508	*D.* 17·03	44,628	36,619	*D.* 17·94	148,894	123,127	*D.* 17·30
Provinces—									
Otago - -	273,930	260,772	*D.* 4·80	148,484	131,152	*D.* 11·67	422,414	391,924	*D.* 7·21
Southland -	32,486	25,989	*D.* 19·99	28,543	15,835	*D.* 44·52	61,029	41,824	*D.* 31·46
Chatham Islands	180	170	*D.* 5·55	—	—	—	180	170	*D.* 5·55
	1,025,516	960,368	*D.* 6·35	382,070	327,589	*D.* 14·25	1,407,586	1,287,957	*D.* 8·49

The territorial revenue, stated above, includes the duty on gold exported, and the sums received for miners' rights and gold-fields fees. The component parts of the total given as "territorial revenue" in each of the gold-producing provinces for 1870 are as follow: — Revenue collected by receivers of land revenue, — Auckland, 575*l.* 10*s.*; Nelson, 5,759*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*; Marlborough, 4,751*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*; Westland, 3,298*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*; Otago, 88,905*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*;

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and Southland, 15,138*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* . . . . . Duty on gold exported, and miners' rights and gold-fields fees,—Auckland, 19,482*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; Nelson, 28,546*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*; Marlborough, 584*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*; Westland, 33,319*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*; Otago, 42,246*l.* 11*s.*; and Southland, 696*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* Also duty and fees native lands courts,—Auckland, 3,395*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*; Wellington, 1,025*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*; and Hawke's Bay, 3,304*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*

The amount shown for Southland is only to the 5th of October, 1870. After that Southland was re-incorporated with Otago.

Debt of the General and Provincial Governments.

The total amount of debentures in circulation on the 31st December, 1870, was 7,841,891*l.*, against 7,360,616*l.* on the 31st December, 1869; and the total annual charge for interest and sinking fund on the 31st December, 1870, was 479,761*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.*, against 459,535*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* on the 31st December, 1869.

The proportions of the debt of the Colony, owing by the general and provincial Governments respectively, together with the annual charge for interest and sinking fund to which each Government was liable on the 31st December, 1870, were as follows, viz.:—

The general Government — debt, 4,543,316*l.*; annual charge, 268,902*l.*: Province of Auckland, debt, 632,150*l.*; annual charge, 38,561*l.*: Province of Taranaki, debt, 25,000*l.*; annual charge, 1,500*l.*: Province of Wellington, debt, 259,956*l.* 10*s.*; annual charge, 17,970*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*: Province of Hawke's Bay, debt 113,343*l.* 10*s.*; annual charge, 6,927*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*: Province of Nelson, debt, 83,543*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*; annual charge, 5,580*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*: Province of Marlborough, debt, 11,406*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*; annual charge, 684*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*; Province of Canterbury, debt, 683,319*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*; annual charge, 42,282*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*; County of Westland, debt, 207,430*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*; annual charge, 13,016*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*: Province of Otago (including former Province of Southland), debt, 1,282,425*l.*; annual charge, 84,336*l.* 5*s.*

Post Office.

Letters received and dispatched.

The total numbers of letters received in New Zealand during the year 1870 were—from places without the Colony, 483,994, against 482,629 in 1869; and from places within the Colony, 2,534,938, against 2,159,906 in 1869; making a general total of 3,018,932, against 2,642,535 in 1869, being an increase of 376,397. . . . . The total numbers of letters dispatched were,—to places without the Colony, 466,235, against 477,375 in 1869; and to places within the Colony, 2,160,712, against 1,896,685 in 1869 making a general total of 2,626,947, against 2,374,060 in 1869, being an increase of 252,887.

Newspapers received and dispatched.

The total numbers of newspapers received in 1870 were,—from places without the Colony, 1,174,544, against 1,098,469 in 1869; and from places within the Colony, 1,092,390, against 978,423 in 1869; making a general total of 2,266,934, against 2,076,892 in 1869, being an increase of 190,042. . . . . The total numbers of newspapers dispatched were, — to places without the Colony,

against 405,047 in 1869; and to places within the Colony, 1,272,991, against 1,081,208 in 1869; making a general total of 1,622,728, against 1,486,255 in 1869, being an increase of 136,473. NEW ZEALAND.

The total amount of the postal revenue in 1870 was 55,780*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*, against 58,007*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* in 1869, being a decrease of 2,226*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*, or 3·83 per cent. Postal revenue.

The total number of money orders issued in New Zealand in 1870 was 31,864, against 28,427 in 1869, being an increase of 3,437. The total amount of these orders in 1870 was 140,454*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*, against 127,218*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* in 1869, being an increase of 13,236*l.* 3*s.* The total number of money orders paid in New Zealand in 1870 was 19,221, against 16,740 in 1869, being an increase 2,481. The total amount of these orders in 1870 was 84,823*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, against 75,833*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* in 1869, being an increase of 8,990*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* Money orders.

Savings Banks.

At the close of the year 1870, the number of Post Office savings banks in the Colony was 70, being an increase of 11 as compared with 1869. Of these, 14 were in the Province of Auckland; 2 in the Province of Taranaki; 4 in the Province of Hawke's Bay; 7 in the Province of Wellington; 4 in the Province of Marlborough; 5 in the Province of Nelson; 3 in the County of Westland; 9 in the Province of Canterbury; 18 in the Province of Otago; and 4 in the Province of Southland. Within the year 4,304 new accounts were opened, and the total deposits (including additions to open accounts) amounted to 264,328*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* The total amount of principal withdrawn during the year was 208,526*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* Taking into account the whole period from the commencement of the system in 1867 to the 31st December, 1870, there remained on the latter date, including principal and interest, a total balance to the credit of depositors amounting to 295,372*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* Post Office savings banks.

The number of savings banks other than those connected with the Post Office was 10. The total number of persons having deposits in these banks on the 31st December, 1870, was 3,820 (of whom 29 were Maoris). The total deposits during the year amounted to 53,943*l.* 2*s.*; and the total of the sums withdrawn to 52,818*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of the year was 93,432*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* Previously existing savings banks.

Taking both classes of savings banks together, there was on the 31st December, 1870, an aggregate amount of 388,804*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.* to the credit of depositors, being 68,419*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* more than the aggregate amount at the end of the year 1869.

Telegraph.

The telegraph stations in the Colony in December, 1870, numbered 63, being 11 more than in December, 1869, and 15 more than in 1868; the number of miles of lines was 1,887, being 276 more than in 1869; 416 more than in 1868; 1,173 more than in 1867; 1,188 more than in 1866; the number of miles of wire was 3,159, being 382 more than in 1869; 522 more than in 1868; 1,712 more than Telegraph Stations and lines;

NEW ZEALAND.

and numbers of telegrams.

in 1867; and 1,761 more than in 1866; the aggregate number of telegrams (private and Government) was 238,195, against 173,746 in 1869; 134,647 in 1868; 87,436 in 1867, and 48,231 in 1866.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN B. BENNETT,
Registrar-General.

The Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS.

GIBRALTAR.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 20.

No. 20.

COPY of a DESPATCH from General Sir W. F. WILLIAMS, Bart., G.C.B., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 48.)

MY LORD, Gibraltar, April 8, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Gibraltar for the year 1871, the accuracy of which has been certified by the Colonial Secretary.

Revenue.

2. The revenue of 1870 from all sources amounted to 36,397*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*, showing a decrease of 1,436*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* as compared with that of the preceding year. The principal decrease has been under the heads of duties on wines and spirits, wharfage tolls, auction dues, and port rates and duties, and is to be attributed to the general depression of trade during the late war, and to the long continuance of quarantine restrictions imposed at this port in consequence of the prevalence of yellow fever on the eastern coast of Spain and the Balearic Islands.

Expenditure.

3. The total expenditure of the year amounted to 41,920*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*, showing an increase of 12,196*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* over that of 1869. This large increase is accounted for by the following extraordinary payments, viz.: 5,625*l.* being the sum demanded by Spanish brigands, and advanced from the Colonial chest for the ransom of the Messrs. Bonell on the understanding that it is to be repaid by the Spanish Government. 5,000*l.* paid into the military chest as a temporary loan, and since invested in exchequer bills for the benefit of the Colony, and 705*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* expended in the purchase of furniture for the private apartments of the convent or Government House, in accordance with the new arrangement recently adopted in this Colony.

The ordinary expenditure of the Colony has not increased, and the satisfactory state of the revenue, showing on the 31st December, 1870, an available surplus of 22,377*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* will admit of measures of general public utility and sanitary improvements being carried out in future with increased facility and expedition.

Legislation.

4. Four Ordinances were enacted during the year, viz:—

No. 1, "An Ordinance to put in force in Gibraltar, the Partition "Act, 1868."

No. 2, "An Ordinance to authorize an inquiry into the seizure, "detention, and ransom of John Bonell and John Anthony Bonell."

No. 3. "An Ordinance for the encouragement and protection of "Friendly Societies in Gibraltar."

No. 4. "An Ordinance to make better provision against desertion "from the Royal Navy."

Education.

5. No change has taken place in the number of schools. The education of the poorer classes is at present conducted by various schools, supported partly by voluntary subscriptions and partly by Government aid, which is given by the addition of one-third of the actual amount of bonâ fide local subscriptions for the current year; but the grants thus made are given without any condition of Government inspection. From the returns of 1870, it appears that 2,068 children are educated in schools receiving Government aid. Of these 2,068 children:—

1,296	are in schools of the Church of Rome.
133	in schools of the Church of England.
243	in Wesleyan schools.
396	in secular schools.
2,068	

It should be observed that these numbers do not give any precise information as to the relative number of Roman Catholic or Protestant children, as many Protestants send their children to Roman Catholic schools, and vice versâ. The total amount of the Government grant in aid of education for the year 1870, was 252*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*

Population.

6. The total population, civil and military, including 2,281 aliens on temporary permits of residence, on the 31st December last, was estimated at 24,076 souls, being 199 persons under the number given in the returns for 1869.

One hundred and seventy marriages were registered during the year, being 10 less than in the previous year. The births numbered 618, and the deaths 503. In the preceding year 678 births and 527 deaths were registered, showing a decrease in 1870 of 60 births and 24 deaths.

The rate of mortality last year was as follows:—

Civil population, numbering 18,063, 21·97 per thousand.

Military population, numbering 6,043, 17·62 per thousand.

Shipping.

7. As a consequence of the late war and of the quarantine restrictions imposed during the past year, the shipping returns exhibit a considerable decrease, both in numbers and tonnage, when compared with the records of the year 1869.

Three thousand seven hundred and eighty one vessels arrived with cargoes, and 414 in ballast. Of the arrivals, 2,308 vessels were

GIBRALTAR.

British, of the measurement of 1,149,742, with an aggregate crew of 50,543 men; and 1887 were foreign vessels of 335,487 tons measurement, with an aggregate crew of 22,635 men.

The following Table will give a comparative statement of the number, tonnage, and crews of vessels for the two years.—

Year.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
1869 - - - - -	4,662	1,546,456	78,784
1870 - - - - - -	4,195	1,485,229	73,178
Decrease in 1870 -	467	61,227	5,606

General Remarks.

8. The sanitary state of the fortress during the past year has been remarkably good, and it is gratifying to me to be enabled to state that this important Colony is advancing in general prosperity, and that the best order and good feeling pervades every class of the community.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) W. F. WILLIAMS, General.

MALTA.

MALTA

No. 21.

No. 21.

(No Report received.)

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 22.

No. 22.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor D'ARCY to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 21.)

Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands,
April 21, 1871.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of these Islands for the year 1870, with the following Report, which I trust will be found satisfactory.

Legislation.

2. During the year 1870 several Ordinances of moment were passed, viz.:—

1. Jury Ordinance.
2. Alien Ordinance.
3. Spirit Duties Ordinance.
4. Rinderpest Ordinance.
5. Naturalization Ordinance.
6. Amalgamation Ordinance.
7. Pilot Ordinance.

The necessity for these measures have been from time to time detailed to your Lordship, and they appear to work satisfactorily.

The time has now arrived when, the settlement having passed its first youth, it becomes necessary to form a poor law, a recent distressing case having forced itself on public notice where private charity was exhausted. It became at once necessary to legislate towards the formation of a municipality from amongst the householders of Stanley for the purpose of supporting their own indigent sick; and the Executive Council agreed with me that it was a fit and proper measure to bring forward in the Legislative Council; but on making the usual notice on the 'Gazette' board that such a measure was in contemplation by the Government, I was surprised to find how unfavourably it was received, the people imagining that it was the duty of the Government to maintain the poor of the Colony. I endeavoured to explain to them, in all friendliness, that the Government had done very much for the settlement in its youth, but that it was now the duty of the inhabitants to maintain their own poor; and I trust, as the subject becomes more discussed, they will view their inevitable responsibilities more favourably.

Imports and Exports.

3. The Tables below exhibit the value of imports and exports for the last ten years. I am sanguine, now the West Falkland Island is leased out in farms, they will show next year a great increase.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£		£	£
1860	26,697	5,910	1865	15,040	17,325
1861	27,205	15,986	1866	20,948	21,780
1862	25,532	15,556	1867	22,125	18,230
1863	28,658	18,415	1868	20,710	12,695
1864	19,438	10,114	1869	18,172	19,184

Climate.

4. It is a perfect study in this Antarctic region to watch the variations of the climate; my service having been for the last 30 years in the tropics, the variable climate of these tempestuous regions became to me fraught with novel interest. During the last 12 months the average range of the thermometer has been 47°, and that of the barometer 29° 30″; the days were wild, grey, and tempestuous, giving, however, a relief of 32 glorious fine days, at long intervals, with a resplendent sun shining as bright as gold through the clearest of atmospheres, and ending with the most exquisite sunsets the imagination of a painter can conceive!

Governor Moody, in his Report of 14th April, 1842, modestly declines to take credit for the climate being suited to delicate people suffering from pulmonary affections; yet (and I give Dr. Mac Clinton, R.N., as my authority), although by general rule it ought to be unfavourable for such cases, for some unknown cause it is not so; for he has known bad cases frequently recover in the Falkland Islands: so dry is the atmosphere, half an hour after a storm of rain, table salt, for instance, which always on the coast of Africa sympathized with the damp atmosphere, and unfit to appear unless previously placed in the oven, here remains dry and fit for use without any drying process.

The winds, violent as is well known, are seldom continuous in one quarter; indeed, if they were so, all living things would perish from cold and inanition; the ground in the winter months is covered with snow; when the wind is from the south, the drifts become alarming, but in 48 hours the wind changes and a rapid thaw takes place. The climate in the neighbourhood of Stanley is very damp, owing to the peat-bog which surrounds the town on the south side; this during the nine winter months of the year is one large sponge enveloping the town in its damp embrace, and the south wind blowing over the icebergs of the Antarctic regions adds to the bleakness of the weather; moreover, the town of Stanley in the summer months is by no means an enviable residence; for, owing to the peculiar formation of the mountains to windward of the town, the fierce westerly summer winds are compressed into a funnel, and blow with a fierceness unusual in other parts of the Island; early settlers, nevertheless, showed a wise discretion in selecting Stanley as the seat of Government; the harbour being unrivalled; it is, in fact, a floating dock within the harbour of Port William, much resembling a narrow fresh water lake in the Highlands of Scotland.

In other parts of the Islands the peat patches are isolated and of no extent, consequently the climate is by no means so damp; the ground, moreover, is firm, and a pleasure to ride over. It must at

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

the same time be remembered that the nights are very cold all the year round, so cold as to endanger life in the event of the sportsman or shepherd losing his way benighted on the bleak moor, as was the case only a few years ago, when Lieutenants Robertson and Jerningham, of the navy, were found near Stanley with life extinct, their guns and dead game by their sides. I have placed crosses to their memory on the spot where they were found, which may also serve as a warning to those who, in the ardour of youth and in the pursuit of a fascinating sport, may forget the rigour of the climate.

The lovers of natural history can find in these Islands much that affords observation. H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, who has visited nearly all the colonies, was pleased to express the interest he felt at the sight of the Penguin Rookery near Stanley. It is situated on a smooth, shelving, rocky mountain, which rises from the ocean at an angle of 45° facing the rising sun; precisely at 5 o'clock P.M. on the 28th September (which day answers to the season of 28th of March in England) thousands upon thousands of these fish-birds arrive from their happy hunting depths in the great deep, and here they locate during the season of incubation, forming their nests in regular lines at right angles with each other, like the streets of a town; the contemplation of such beautiful order and regularity forces itself irresistibly on the mind. Meanwhile, the abundance of wild game gives zest to the sportsman, and the sealing trade gives lucrative employment to the population, who necessarily become a hardy and adventurous set of mariners, whilst the necessity for the employment of Gauchos (the tamers of wild cattle) gives another outlet for the youth of the settlement to become bold and skilful horsemen.

In consequence of the total absence of trees, bushes, and plants, the botanist would find but little to interest him, but the florist would be interested in seeing how the spring and summer flowers take shelter from the wind by hugging the ground so fixedly that even to discover them it is necessary to go down on your knees and peer into the grass.

The general impression is that the winds of the world are concentrated in and about the Falkland Islands, and indeed such may well be the opinion; but Mr. Smither, the master of the colonial mail schooner 'Foam,' who has made some 50 voyages conveying the mails to and from Monte Video, assures me that it is not in our immediate neighbourhood that the 'Foam' encounters the severest weather, but from latitude 45° to 47° South, off St. George's Bay, about half way between Stanley and Monte Video; here he describes the winds and the consequent seas as terrific, veering all round the compass in 24 hours. At this point he has, voyage after voyage, been compelled to heave to his little vessel, on one occasion five days, under a close-reefed boom foresail, being afraid to drive under bare poles even when the wind was favourable.

Population.

5. The Census taken this year shows an increase of upwards of 271 over the Census taken in 1862. Moreover, the crews from

shipwrecked vessels, and from those who put in for repairs, form a great addition to the nomade part of the population, although they cannot be considered as colonists, and consequently have not been enumerated.

Public Works.

6. Mr. Bailey, the Surveyor-General, having the services of a handy body of artizans and labourers in the Royal Marines, who form the garrison, has been enabled during the year to carry out the following improvements at a comparative small cost.

(1.) A good macadamized road running at right angles from the main street over the hill at the back of the town, up to the signal staff at the top.

(2.) The jetty at the dockyard has been extended, a work much required for coaling and other purposes.

(3.) The track to Darwin, the main artery of the Island, has been much improved by a road made through a stream of stones, and several dangerous water gullies have been bridged.

(4.) The cemetery at Port Louis has been fenced in and repaired, and a bridle-road is now in course of construction to the lighthouse at Cape Pembroke, which is seven miles distant from Stanley, and which I hope will form an agreeable ride in all time to come for the community, free of the danger of boggy ground, so trying to the courage of both horses and their riders.

(5.) The new gaol cannot be completed, owing to the great difficulty of procuring lime; shells are not to be found on the Islands in sufficient quantities to warrant the construction of a kiln, and the freight is one dreaded by shipping masters. Fortunately, with the exception of an occasional refractory seaman or so, there are no prisoners.

Shipping.

7. The tonnage of vessels which entered the port during the year amounts to 20,227, with an establishment of 1,391 seamen, all of whom by their requirements foster trade of the settlement, adding considerably to the nomade population. The following vessels arrived in distress and were repaired here, and proceeded on their destination, except the 'Jhelum' and the 'Vicar of Bray,' condemned as unseaworthy:—

	Tons.		Tons.
'Jhelum'	428	'Vicar of Bray'	364
'Rosedale'	459	'Calabar'	496
'Queen of Nations'	1,449	'Mathilde'	845
'Astracana'	1,192	'Look Out'	1,067
'Vampyr'	216	'Epsilon'	504
'Madawaska'	511	'Eagle'	307

It is a pleasing reflection to bear in mind that at least three of this number could not possibly have beat up to Monte Video, and must have foundered but for the timely shelter this harbour of refuge afforded; it is possible the others might have reached Monte Video, but at a great risk and loss of valuable time; whilst the total wrecks

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of the 'Balcarry,' 'Maid of Athens,' 'Alto,' 'Vampyr,' 'Illimani,' as detailed to your Lordship in recent Despatches, are instances where but for the shelter of the port very many valuable lives must have perished, who have been all sent home as distressed British seamen, except two or three who have elected to remain as colonists.

Conveyance of Mails.

8. A monthly communication with the home country instead of a bi-monthly, as at present, would be of incalculable benefit to the settlement, and it is quite possible now to arrange this essential even with our mail schooner, 'Foam.' Sandy Point, on the Patagonian side of the Magellan Straits, is but 300 miles distant, whereas Monte Video is exactly 1,000 miles. The wind to the Point is unfavourable from Stanley, but by anchoring in the sheltered bay in New Island, one of the Falkland group, until a favourable slant of wind could be seized, the average passage is but a week; returning, the powerful prevailing west wind would sweep the 'Foam' along in three days or less. Sandy Point, owing to the discovery of gold and coal, has become an important dependency of the Chilian Government, and a line of large steamers running from Liverpool to Valparaiso coal there monthly. I hope to be able to submit soon to your Lordship a Despatch suggestive of this desirable undertaking.

Education.

9. The Government school is a very satisfactory institution, nearly one hundred little people are in course of instruction; they are more advanced than I could have expected, and their attainments are of a fair average order.

The Sunday school is also well attended, several of the wives and daughters of the colonial officers and the leading merchants take classes under the superintendence of the colonial chaplain. I am sorry to report a great scholastic want in the camp, and I am at a loss how to meet the difficulty. About forty children, the sons and daughters of shepherds and stock masters, for the most part in the service of the Falkland Islands Company, scattered in distant stations, many miles apart from each other, appropriately named Tranquildad and Soledad, are growing up in ignorance, their parents being fully occupied with their daily responsible and active duties, cannot be expected to supply the deficiency; there is moreover amongst these families a great want of ecclesiastical superintendence. In Scotland I am told such requirements are met by a mounted schoolmaster, who goes from cottage to cottage regularly, remaining at each shepherd's hut a week, leaving a task behind him to be learnt by his return; the expense of such a functionary might reasonably be entertained by the company, as the Government have maintained the Stanley school since the formation of the settlement.

General Remarks.

10. I reported in my last Report on the Blue Book that I considered the people showed a disposition of loyalty and a love of order,

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

and such is indeed the case, but at the same time it is accompanied with a strange insular dependance on the Government, difficult to reconcile with the better parts of their disposition. They wholly rely on the Government for many private wants and for all colonial improvements. They are extremely repugnant to taxation, even of an indirect nature, and jealous and irritable to a degree at the attempts the Government have made lately to control the wrecking trade, conceiving that the derelict of the ocean to be wholly the property of the discoverer, in fact displaying the greatest ignorance of the laws which regulate salvage.

The resources of the Islands being so limited, they cannot be expected to rise to any state of prosperity, yet they offer a fair opening for a limited number of immigrants. Labourers and artizans, especially ship carpenters, find varied but not continuous employment, the former at 5*s.* a day, and the latter, when working on board ship, 16*s.* 8*d.* a day. Meat and bread are cheap, but house rent and firing and European articles are dear. I have, however, known several carpenters, married men with families, take home 500*l.* in savings after five years' industry. I cannot but believe that the general prospects of the Islands are hopeful, and they fully answer the benevolent object the British Government had in view when they were entertained as a dependency of the Crown, that of affording a refuge for the storm-tossed shipping who are compelled on their lawful occasions to round Cape Horn.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) G. D'ARCY,
Governor.

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